SOUTH PACIFIC COMMISSION

SECOND REGIONAL SEMINAR FOR PACIFIC YOUTH

(Pago Pago, American Samoa, 17–21 June 1991)

REPORT

Noumea, New Caledonia
1991

Original text: English

South Pacific Commission Cataloguing-in-publication data

Regional Seminar for Pacific Youth (2nd in 1991 in Pago Pago)
Report

1. Youth Oceania--Congresses 2. Youth Services--Oceania--Congresses I.South Pacific Commission

362.7099 AACR2
ISBN 982-203-233-1

Prepared for publication and printed at
South Pacific Commission headquarters
Noumea, New Caledonia, 1991

CONTENTS

	Page
I. Introduction	1
II. Agenda	3
III. Summary of discussions	5
IV. Recommendations	13
V. List of Working Papers and documents	17
VI. List of participants	19
Annex 1 – Summaries of country statements	25

I. INTRODUCTION

The South Pacific Commission Youth and Adult Education Programme was established in 1965. In 1974, the Commission organised a sub-regional planning conference on out-of-school youth in Suva, Fiji. At that conference and subsequently, government and non-government youth officials have repeatedly expressed the need to meet in a regional forum to discuss the major problems facing Pacific Island youth. The problems have been especially recognised for those in rural areas in the sectors of education, unemployment, alcohol abuse, life-skills and training, the creation of income-generating activities, and the co-ordination of youth activities and resources at the national and regional levels.

In the period following the 1981 declaration of the United Nations General Assembly that 1985 was to be the International Year of Youth (IYY), there was a marked increase in awareness by all sectors throughout the region of the problems and needs of Pacific Island youth. Also recognised was the urgency to find solutions if real social and economic progress was to be achieved.

The Twenty-fourth South Pacific Conference (1984) approved the proposal to organise a Regional Seminar for Pacific Youth in the IYY. Initially planned for February 1985, the Seminar was held from 10 to 14 February 1986 at SPC headquarters in Noumea, New Caledonia. Participants from 19 Pacific Island countries and territories were able to attend, thanks to extra-budgetary funding from Unesco, the Commonwealth Foundation, and the Governments of France and the United States.

That first Regional Seminar for Pacific Youth generated an exhaustive list of 84 recommendations on economic, cultural, educational and social themes. The recommendations served as the standing orders for the SPC Youth and Adult Education Programme in the period 1986 – 1991. In 1990, the SPC Youth and Adult Education Programme was evaluated by Mr Sam Vanini. His report and the growing complexity of youth issues in the Pacific were the matters for discussion at the Second Regional Seminar for Pacific Youth held in Pago Pago, American Samoa, from 17 to 21 June 1991.

II. AGENDA

1. Official opening
2. Election of Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson
3. Adoption of agenda
4. Hours and programme of work
5. Country statements
6. Progress report on 1986 recommendations
7. Work progress – SPC Youth and Adult Education Programme
8. Evaluation of SPC Youth and Adult Education Programme: Report by Mr Samuela Vanini
9. 'AIDS and radio' demonstration
10. SPC Programme presentations
    - Statistics Programme
    - Community Education Training Programme
    - Community Health Services
    - Tropical Agriculture
    - Integrated Rural Development
    - SPC Regional Media Centre (Radio Programme)
11. Commonwealth Youth Programme (CYP)
12. Future directions (Cook Islands)
    - Proposal for Meeting of Ministers of Youth
13. Presentations by Observers
14. Date and venue of next Conference
15. Other business
16. Adoption of report
17. Closing of Conference

III. SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS

AGENDA ITEM 1 – OFFICIAL OPENING

1. The Second South Pacific Youth Seminar was opened by the Acting Governor, Hon. Galea'i Poumele, and included an invocation by the Reverend Levu Tulafono Solaita. In his opening remarks, Acting Governor Poumele noted that a goal of the American Samoa Government was to meet and overcome the challenges facing youth. Two of these issues were the successful management for the future of the region's vast marine and environmental resources. He commended the Seminar for its focus on youth matters, in particular, the discussion of pride in the customary tradition and family values. The theme of the conference was 'Employment for the year 2000 – create your own'.

2. The President of the American Samoa Senate, the Hon. Letuli Toloa, also extended a warm welcome to the Seminar and endorsed the priority being accorded to youth.

3. The South Pacific Commission Deputy Director of Programmes, Mr Vaasatia Poloma Komiti, in response, outlined the challenge for youth in the Pacific region. The challenge was a major one without an easy solution. He however saw a way ahead through youth and policy makers getting together and understanding each other's needs and aspirations.

AGENDA ITEM 2 – ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON AND VICE-CHAIRPERSON

4. The Republic of American Samoa was unanimously elected as Chairperson of the Seminar. The Republic of Guam was elected as Vice-Chairperson with acclamation.

AGENDA ITEM 3 – ADOPTION OF AGENDA

5. The Provisional Agenda was adopted without amendment.

AGENDA ITEM 4 – HOURS AND PROGRAMME OF WORK

6. The meeting adopted its hours and programme of work.

AGENDA ITEM 5 – COUNTRY STATEMENTS

7. Country delegations made country statements (summaries attached at Annex I) highlighting youth issues and their approaches to those challenges. A common theme throughout the presentations was the acceptance of youth as a national asset which was to be nurtured for the future of the region.

8. Delegations were united in identifying unemployment and drug/alcohol/tobacco abuse as major youth concerns. Although widely recognised, other substance abuse was not an active issue in all countries. A large number stated that the high level of school drop-out was a key issue. Concern was also registered at the number of activities addressing the outcome of youth problems while considerably less effort was directed to eliminating the problems.

9. Seminar participants recognised that youth problems and their solutions were linked across society and a truly integrated approach needed to be adopted. Training, in particular vocational training, and the economic integration of youth were seen as viable solutions. The long-standing and successful role of non-government organisations and church groups was commended. In keeping with their grassroots approach participants called for a village or community basis for assistance to youth. The majority of participants had established or were about to establish formal government bodies to monitor, co-ordinate and manage youth affairs.

10. In the course of outlining steps taken in addressing youth issues, the question of the definition of youth arose. Following discussion a sub-committee comprising the representatives of American Samoa, New Caledonia, Marshall Islands, Niue and Papua New Guinea was formed to develop an appropriate definition. The definition adopted is as follows:

Notwithstanding the SPC Youth Programme's focus on out-of-school youth, the Seminar, recognising the difficulties in satisfying the respective cultures and traditions with respect to their perception of youth, and noting individual country legal and administrative requirements, resolved:

(a) that people aged 3 years to 35 years be considered as youth; and

(b) that the following categories be considered and characterised as follows:

- *3 to 11 years to be considered as Primary;*
- *12 to 18 years to be considered as Young Men and Young Women;*
- *19 to 26 years to be considered as Adults;*
- *27 to 35 years to be considered as Senior Adults.*

11. The following countries expressed reservations on the above definition: Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, French Polynesia, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, New Caledonia, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu.

AGENDA ITEM 6 - PROGRESS REPORT ON 1986 RECOMMENDATIONS

12. The South Pacific Commission Youth Development Officer, Mr Pio Tikoisuva, introduced document SPC/Youth/WP.4 on the progress achieved by the Secretariat on the recommendations arising from the 1986 Regional Seminar for Pacific Youth. He noted that while progress had been made with co-ordination of youth affairs and the establishment of Youthlink, funding and staff constraints precluded satisfactory progress on other recommendations.

13. In discussing the progress report, which delegations noted was not very positive, several representatives drew attention to the recommendations directed at governments and non-government organisations. Here again progress had not been great. The Deputy Director of Programmes informed the Seminar that given the decision of the South Pacific Conference for zero real growth in core funding the existing staff and funding constraints were likely to remain. As a consequence, he encouraged delegates to discuss and form resolutions which were achievable given present staff and funding levels.

14. Delegates considered the need for more regular youth meetings and raised the option of carrying forward key or unsatisfied recommendations from the 1986 Seminar. In response to questions, the Chief of the Unesco Office for the Pacific States, Mr Peter Higginson, commented on co-ordination with the South Pacific Commission and activities of Unesco in youth affairs. Unesco's funding position, he said, was very serious.

15. Delegates recorded their concern at the apparent low priority accorded to the youth by some international and regional donor organisations operating in the Pacific. They noted with appreciation the funding for this seminar provided by Australia and the considerable efforts of American Samoa as its host.

AGENDA ITEM 7 - WORK PROGRESS - SPC YOUTH AND ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAMME

16. In his introductory comments on document SPC/Youth/WP.3 the South Pacific Commission Youth and Adult Education Officer, Mr Pio Tikoisuva, outlined the four sub-sections of the programme - training, the *Youthlink* newsletter, the Regional Seminar and duty travel. It was noted that the channels of communication with the programme should be via the formal government/SPC contact point in each country. Requests for assistance should be submitted by February each year. The Secretariat was aware of the need to share equitably the small resources it had at its disposal.

17. Given the shortage of both human and financial resources, the Secretariat, through the Youth and Adult Education Programme, sought to initiate and support self-reliance for Pacific youth. The South Pacific Commission did not have sufficient resources to service all the requests received and thus countries were encouraged to create their own opportunities.

18. In response to questions, the Secretariat clarified that, while predominantly responding to country-identified needs, the Youth Programme has and would continue to take the initiative where this was deemed appropriate. A number of non-government organisations requested direct access to the Youth Programme publications and the Secretariat undertook to meet this need in addition to its formal requirement to liaise with member governments. The Secretariat reminded the Seminar that other programmes of the SPC conducted activities in their particular fields that were applicable to youth and that youth workers could call on this experience.

19. The French-speaking delegations recorded a strong plea for the *Youthlink* newsletter to be translated into French in a timely fashion to enable greater impact in their countries. The Deputy Director of Programmes advised the Seminar that the SPC had taken a decision to so translate youth materials including *Youthlink*.

20. Delegations recorded their gratitude for the activities of the Youth and Adult Education Programme which, they observed, continued to make good use of the available non-government organisation expertise.

AGENDA ITEM 8 : EVALUATION REPORT BY MR SAMUELA VANINI

21. The Consultant employed by the South Pacific Commission to conduct an independent evaluation of the Youth and Adult Education Programme, Mr Samuela Vanini, gave an overview of his report's recommendations which, he said, would contribute to a more effective approach to youth issues in the Pacific. Training, particularly at the community or village level, was important to improve youth worker capacity. He stressed a need to use existing systems and for initiative to be recognised and supported. The recommendation for middle-level training was designed to ensure support for national youth bodies and to keep them functioning.

22. Following extensive discussion of the Vanini Report and the funding implications of the recommendations contained therein, the report was adopted with minor amendment for submission to the Fifteenth Committee of Representatives of Governments and Administrations.

23. Delegations commended the report and conveyed their warm appreciation to the author. The Seminar highlighted the following recommendations which were taken with amendment from the consultant's report.

A. Training

24. *The Seminar supported the recommendation made in the evaluation of the SPC Youth and Adult Education Programme that the Programme operate in three broad training areas:*

(a) In-country training for youth workers

- *Design and implementation of a special Extension Course of Continuing Education (SECCE) at the village and community level;*
- *Sub-regional short courses directed towards improving the capacity of national youth organisations;*
- *Regional/sub-regional residential courses for planners and national youth managers to review and amend youth policy and strategies*

(b) Seminars and workshops for middle-and upper-level managers

- *National seminars with a focus on employment and substance abuse*

- *Subsequent regional or sub-regional (if appropriate) seminars to explore collective solutions.*

(c) *Reinstatement of awards for youth work training*

- *To top up specialist national skills.*

B. **Youthlink and Pacific Youth Council**

25. *The Seminar supported the report recommendation that:*

(a) *The name of this activity be changed to Youth and Community Resource and Communication Network, and that*

- *It focus on the three areas of human resource development, information exchange and research and development education;*

- *To reach a wider audience, it make use of other modes of communication including video, audio, bulletins etc.*

(b) *A full-time post of Youth Communication Officer be established, subject to the availability of extra-budgetary funding:*

- *The officer be based in Noumea but maintain links with CETC and the SPC Regional Media Centre (RMC) in Suva.*

C. **Regional Youth Seminar**

26. *The Seminar supported the evaluation report's recommendation that:*

(a) *The name of the activity be changed to 'Pacific Sub-Regional Youth and Adult Education Forum;*

(b) *Three fora be established (for Micronesia, Melanesia and Polynesia);*

- *Membership include government and non-government representatives;*

(c) *Meetings of the fora be followed by a Regional Youth Conference to evaluate and discuss their proceedings.*

D. **Staffing**

27. *The Seminar supported the evaluation report's recommendation that:*

(a) *The position of Assistant Youth Development Officer be confirmed and placed in the Core Budget from 1993;*

- *Duties be reviewed and focused;*

(b) *A position of Youth and Community Training Officer be established, subject to the availability of extra-budgetary funding:*
- *The officer be based in Noumea, collaborating with the CETC, the University of the South Pacific and the Commonwealth Youth Programme.*

Funding considerations

28. *The 20 Island member nations represented at the Second Seminar for Pacific Youth, while mindful of the lack of readily available resources, expressed their wholehearted commitment to youth issues. As a consequence, the representatives strongly urged the SPC Secretariat to make*

provision in the Core Budget for a bi-annual meeting of youth workers and youth leaders of both government and non-government organisations. The representatives further urged the SPC to seek funding relentlessly for this meeting which serves as the premier consultative forum on Pacific youth issues.

AGENDA ITEM 9 – 'AIDS AND RADIO' DEMONSTRATION

29. The Seminar participants were provided with an interactive simulation of a radio programme co-ordinated by the South Pacific Commission's Radio Broadcast Assistant, Mr Yaminiasi Gaunavou. The presentation replicated a talk-back radio show and participants 'phoned in' with comments, questions and clarifications. The power and reach of effective and informative radio was clearly demonstrated.

30. A panel of experts consisting of the SPC Health Co-ordinator, Dr Sitaleki Finau, the SPC AIDS Information Officer, Mr Steven Vete, and the WHO/UNESCO Project Co-ordinator on AIDS Education, Mr Lai Wainikesa, fielded all questions. In summing up, the panel members gave a brief overview of their respective activities which were aimed at providing Pacific youth with timely and correct information to enable them to make informed choices. The delegates indicated with acclamation their appreciation for the presentation.

31. *The Seminar recommended that the Pacific youth network be used to disseminate AIDS information in the Pacific.*

AGENDA ITEM 10 – SPC PROGRAMME PRESENTATIONS

Statistics Programme

32. The Chief Statistician from the American Samoa Economic and Development Planning Office, Mr Vaito'elau Filiga, introduced document SPC/Youth/WP.1 and noted the importance of the availability of statistical information in understanding the extent of youth issues and in supporting funding requests. He observed that national household survey programmes were useful in providing data on sensitive topics which could not be included in a formal census. He further remarked that national statistical offices often held small area data which although not published were available and very useful to youth workers.

33. Subsequent discussion highlighted the problems of obtaining access to official data held by medical, judicial and educational authorities.

34. *The Seminar recommended that the South Pacific Commission Statistics Programme assist with the compilation of a social database and its subsequent interpretation.*

35. Governments and Administrations were urged to co-operate with this activity.

Community Education Training Programme

36. The South Pacific Commission Agriculture Instructor, Mr Akerei Salesa, introduced document SPC/Youth/WP.2 and outlined the role of the SPC Community Education and Training Centre (CETC) based in Suva. He observed that the centre focused on training activities for women and provided attendees with a certificate of attendance on completion of their attachment.

37. Considerable discussion followed on the Centre's certification, entry requirements and curriculum. The Deputy Director of Programmes advised the Seminar that the CETC was viewed as one of the most successful of the Commission's activities and that this success was linked to the contribution participants were able to make on return to their own communities.

38. *The Seminar, recognising the contribution of the South Pacific Commission Agriculture Programme, recommended that, wherever possible, Governments and Administrations give priority to the utilisation of youth in their agricultural activities.*

39. He further noted the requests for expansion of the curriculum and examination of the option for decentralisation to in-country courses and stated that these views would be part of the evaluation of the CETC programme scheduled for 1992.

Community Health Services

40. The South Pacific Commission Health Co-ordinator, Dr Sitaleki Finau, introduced document SPC/Youth/WP.5 and defined health as being 'physical, mental, social and spiritual well being'. Health, he said, was both a pathway to development and an objective of development. He was concerned to see a concentration on economic solutions at the expense of health activities.

41. Ensuing discussion centred on the health needs of Pacific youth, the role the SPC may play in meeting these needs and the initiatives governments should take in their own right to address these concerns.

42. *The Seminar confirmed good health as one of the ultimate goals of development, and, as a consequence, recommended that health impact assessments be integrated into the objectives and implementation strategies of all development projects conducted in the region.*

Tropical Agriculture and Integrated Rural Development

43. The South Pacific Commission Agriculture Co-ordinator, Dr Malcolm Hazelman, introduced documents SPC/Youth/WP.7 and 8 and observed that, regrettably, agriculture was also a low priority with many governments. He noted that while Pacific agriculture, being centred on traditional crops, was facing difficult times, it nevertheless had the potential to contribute effectively to the solution of youth issues. Training, he said, was a key activity to be pursued. In commenting on integrated rural development he noted a need to consult with and involve people in the activity design and implementation. The concept of integration as contained in the activity title was the key.

44. Subsequent discussion by delegates highlighted specific agricultural issues in their respective countries and explored how best the SPC Agriculture Programme might respond to these needs. One significant proposal was for the SPC to consider conducting in concert with countries a 'Back-to-the-land Month' during which youth would be encouraged to participate in realising the agricultural potential that exists in the Pacific.

AGENDA ITEM 11 : COMMONWEALTH YOUTH PROGRAMME

45. The Director of the Commonwealth Youth Programme (CYP), Mr Hannington Alatoa, provided an overview of the Commonwealth Youth Programme which was established in the Pacific in 1974. The objectives of the programme reflected a commitment to the improvement of social conditions for young disadvantaged people in the Pacific. The programme worked closely with both government and non-government organisations. It focused on training, with a particular emphasis on the provision of training materials. On completion of his address the Director presented the South Pacific Commission Youth and Adult Education Officer with a set of CYP training manuals.

46. The ensuing discussion of the Commonwealth Youth Programme touched on the close level of co-ordination of that programme with these activities of the South Pacific Commission. Delegates recorded their appreciation for the past efforts of the CYP and expressed a wish for the programme's activities to be extended beyond the present eleven Commonwealth member countries as funds permitted.

United Nations Volunteer – Domestic Development Service

47. At the invitation of the Seminar the United Nations Volunteer – Domestic Development Service Project Manager, Ms Josephine Keelan, provided details of the Service's operation in the Pacific. The Service is funded by the United Nations Development Programme and activities

include volunteer postings, advisory services, out-of-country training and in-country study attachments. The Service consulted widely and co-operated with the Commonwealth Youth Programme, the South Pacific Commission, NGOs and church groups. The delegates expressed appreciation for the work done by the Service.

AGENDA ITEM 12 – FUTURE DIRECTIONS (Cook Islands)

48. The Representative of the Cook Islands introduced document SPC/Youth/WP.11 which stimulated extensive discussion on the need to bring to the attention of the region's decision-makers the priority and commitment delegates to the Seminar accorded youth issues. Delegates were mindful of the costs in both time and resources associated with a ministerial conference but felt the rewards of this high-level involvement merited such an allocation.

49. *The Seminar, mindful of the need to bring youth matters to the attention of the region's decision-makers, recommended that CRGA explore fully the options of conducting a regional meeting of Youth Ministers.*

50. The Seminar further noted that to address cost concerns, CRGA may wish to consider conducting the ministerial conference in association with another appropriate ministerial gathering. Member countries may also consider making a special one-off assessed budget contribution to the conference's costs.

AGENDA ITEM 13 – PRESENTATIONS BY OBSERVERS

51. Miss Sian Smith, on behalf of the Baha'i International Community, provided an overview of the Community's interest in youth affairs. She affirmed the Baha'i Community's commitment to the importance of youth in the Pacific and noted that successful working relationships had been established with regional youth committees. She concluded her remarks by outlining two recent successful activities undertaken in New Zealand.

52. Ms Salu H. Reid, President of the American Samoa Education Association, eloquently addressed the Seminar and highlighted the need to integrate youth issues into all facets of education. She particularly expressed a wish for youth education programmes to teach first and foremost cultural and language identity.

AGENDA ITEM 14 – DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT CONFERENCE

53. The Seminar received offers from both French Polynesia and the Cook Islands to host the next Regional Seminar for Pacific Youth.

54. *The Seminar recommended that the Third Regional Seminar for Pacific Youth be held in 1994 in the Cook Islands and that the theme for the Third Seminar be 'What future for Pacific youth in a changing world?'*

55. The following Youth Seminar is to be held in French Polynesia.

AGENDA ITEM 15 – OTHER BUSINESS

56. *In order that the necessary continuity in Youth affairs be maintained, the Seminar recommended that Governments and Administrations, especially those of American Samoa and Tonga, include in their official delegations to the Fifteenth CRGA and Thirty-first South Pacific Conference, representatives of the youth programme officers participating in this Second Regional Seminar for Pacific Youth.*

AGENDA ITEM 16 – ADOPTION OF REPORT

57. The meeting adopted its report.

AGENDA ITEM 17 – CLOSING OF CONFERENCE

58. The Seminar closed with a reiteration of appreciation to the Governments of Australia and American Samoa for their funding and support for the Second Regional Seminar for Pacific Youth.

IV. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Second Regional Seminar for Pacific Youth, held in Pago Pago, American Samoa, 17–21 June 1991, made the following specific recommendations:

1. Definition of Youth (para. 10)

Notwithstanding the SPC Youth Programme's focus on out-of-school youth, the Seminar, recognising the difficulties in satisfying the respective cultures and traditions with respect to their perception of youth, and noting individual country legal and administrative requirements, resolved:

(a) that people aged 3 years to 35 years be considered as *Youth*; and

(b) that the following categories be considered and characterised:

- 3 to 11 years to be considered as Primary;
- 12 to 18 years to be considered as Young Men and Young Women;
- 19 to 26 years to be considered as Adults;
- 27 to 35 years to be considered as Senior Adults,

The following countries expressed reservations on the above definition: Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, French Polynesia, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, New Caledonia, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.

2. Role of the SPC Youth and Adult Education Programme (para. 24)

A. Training

The Seminar supported the recommendation made in the evaluation of the Youth and Adult Education Programme that the Programme operate in three broad training areas:

(a) In-country training for youth workers

- Design and implementation of a Special Extension Course of Continuing Education (SECCE) at the village and community level;

- Sub-regional short courses directed towards improving the capacity of national youth organisations;

- Regional/sub-regional residential courses for planners and national youth managers to review and amend youth policy and strategies.

(b) Seminars and workshops for middle- and upper-level managers

- National seminars with a focus on employment and substance abuse;

- Subsequent regional or sub-regional (if appropriate) seminars to explore collective solutions.

(c) Reinstatement of awards for youth work training

- To top up specialist national skills.

B. Youthlink and Pacific Youth Council

The Seminar supported the evaluation report's recommendation that:

(a) The name of this activity be changed to 'Youth and Community Resource and Communication Network' and that:

- it focus on the three areas of human resource development, information exchange and research and development education;
- to reach a wider audience, it make use of other modes of communication, including video, audio, bulletins etc.

(b) A full-time post of Youth Communication Specialist be established, subject to the availability of extra-budgetary funding:

- the officer be based in Noumea but maintain links with CETC and the SPC Regional Media Centre (RMC) in Suva.

C. Regional Youth Seminar

The Seminar supported the evaluation report's recommendation that:

(a) The name of this activity be changed to 'Pacific Sub-Regional Youth and Adult Education Forum';

(b) Three fora be established (for Micronesia, Melanesia and Polynesia);

- Membership include government and non-government representatives;

(c) Meetings of the fora be followed by a Regional Youth Conference to evaluate and discuss their proceedings.

D. Staffing

The Seminar supported the evaluation report's recommendation that:

(a) The position of Assistant Youth Development Officer be confirmed and placed in the Core Budget from 1993;

- Duties be reviewed and focused;

(b) A position of Youth and Community Training Officer be established, subject to the availability of extra-budgetary funding

- The officer be based in Noumea, collaborating with CETC, the University of the South Pacific and the Commonwealth Youth Programme.

3. Funding considerations (para. 28)

The 20 Island member nations represented at the Second Seminar for Pacific Youth, while mindful of the lack of readily available resources, expressed their wholehearted commitment to youth issues. As a consequence, the representatives strongly urged the SPC Secretariat to make provision in the Core Budget for a bi-annual meeting of youth workers and youth leaders of both the government and non-government organisations. The representatives further urged the SPC to seek funding relentlessly for this meeting which serves as the premier consultative forum on Pacific youth issues.

4. AIDS (para. 31)

The Seminar recommended that the Pacific youth network be used to disseminate AIDS information in the Pacific.

5. **Social database** (para. 34)

The Seminar recommended that the South Pacific Commission Statistics Programme assist with the compilation of a social database and its subsequent interpretation.

6. **Agriculture** (para. 38)

The Seminar, recognising the contribution of the South Pacific Commission Agriculture Programme, recommended that, wherever possible, Governments and Administrations give priority to the utilisation of youth in their agricultural activities.

7. **Health** (para. 42)

The Seminar confirmed good health as one of the ultimate goals of development, and, as a consequence, recommended that health impact assessments be integrated into the objectives and implementation strategies of all development projects conducted in the region.

8. **Future Directions** (para. 49)

The Seminar, mindful of the need to bring youth matters to the attention of the region's decision-makers, recommended that the CRGA explore fully the options of conducting a regional meeting of Youth Ministers.

9. **Next Conference: Dates, Venue and Theme** (para. 54)

The Seminar recommended that the Third Regional Seminar on Pacific Youth be held in 1994 in the Cook Islands and that the theme for the Third Seminar be *What future for Pacific youth in a changing world?*

10. **Attendance at the Thirty-first South Pacific Conference** (para. 56)

In order that the necessary continuity in youth affairs be maintained, the Seminar recommended that Governments and Administrations, especially those of American Samoa and Tonga, include in their official delegations to the Fifteenth CRGA and Thirty-first South Pacific Conference representatives of the youth programme officers who participated in the Second Regional Seminar for Pacific Youth.

V. LIST OF WORKING PAPERS AND DOCUMENTS

WORKING PAPERS

SPC/YOUTH/WP.1	Availability and use of statistical data on youth
WP.2	Community Education Training Programme
WP.3	Work Progress – SPC Youth and Adult Education Programme
WP.4	Progress Report 1986 Recommendations – Youth Seminar
WP.5	Community Health Services
WP.6	Secretariat's comments
WP.7	Integrated Rural Development
WP.8	Tropical Agriculture
WP.9	Evaluation of SPC Youth and Adult Education Programme
WP.10	Breaking down the barrier to development
WP.11	Proposal for meeting of Ministers of Youth of the South Pacific region

COUNTRY STATEMENTS

SPC/YOUTH/CS.1	Vanuatu
CS.2	Marshall Islands
CS.3	Kiribati
CS.4	Papua New Guinea
CS.5	Tonga
CS.6	Nauru
CS.7	Cook Islands
CS.8	Fiji

INFORMATION PAPERS

SPC/YOUTH/IP.1	CYP/SPRC's role for youth development
IP.2	Country recommendations

VI. LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

American Samoa

Mr Tau Sualevai
Youth Development Officer
Office of the Governor
PAGO PAGO

Rev. Larry Tofaeono
Director of Christian Education
Christian Congregational Church of American Samoa
P.O. Box 157
PAGO PAGO

Mr Falemao M. (Phil) Pili
Deputy Treasurer
American Samoa Government
PAGO PAGO

Cook Islands

Mr John Tangi
Advisor on Youth Affairs
Government of the Cook Islands
P.O. Box 98
RAROTONGA

Mr Ngere Tamatoa
Vice-President of the National Youth Council
Ministry of Youth and Sports
Government of the Cook Islands
P.O. Box 536
RAROTONGA

Federated States of Micronesia

Mr Sosiro K. Yamamura
FSM Youth Activities Coordinator
Department of Human Resources
FSM National Government
PALIKIR, POHNPEI 96941

Fiji

Mr Waisea Davuiqalita
Principal Youth Officer
Department of Youth and Sport
P.O. Box 2448
Government Buildings
SUVA

Mr Tomu Vunakece
Fiji National Youth Council
P.O. Box 961
SUVA

French Polynesia

M. Eric Tuahine
Service territorial de la jeunesse et de l'éducation populaire
B.P. 4249
PAPEETE, Tahiti

Mme Mata Ganahoa
Comité territorial de la jeunesse
B.P. 3474
PAPEETE
Tahiti

Dr Marie-Françoise Brugiroux
Médecin-chef du Centre d'alcoologie et de toxicomanie
B.P. 611
PAPEETE
Tahiti

Guam

Ms Rowena Perez-Punzalan
Special Assistant to the Governor for Health Policy, Education and Human Resources
Office of the Governor
P.O. Box 2950
AGANA 96910

Ms Deborah Jean Pablo Reyes
Youth Congress Member on the Committee of Youth
#33 San Miguel St.
TALOFOFU 96930

Kiribati

Mr Nanimatang Karoua
Ministry of Home Affairs and Decentralisation
TARAWA

Marshall Islands

Mr Ernest Shoniber
Assistant Youth Director
P.O. Box 1138
Ministry of Social Services
MAJURO

Mr Middle Ralpho
Youth Director
P.O. Box 1138
Ministry for Social Services
MAJURO

New Caledonia

M. Joe Streeter
Président de l'Association calédonienne pour l'animation et la formation (ACAF)
c/o Délégation territoriale à la formation professionelle
B.P. 1110
NOUMEA

Niue

Mr Crossley Tatui
Community Services Manager
Community Affairs Office
P.O. Box 77
ALOFI

Miss Heleena Togakilo
Niue National Youth Council
ALOFI

Northern Mariana Islands

Miss Sherrie San Nicolas
Public School Youth Representative (NGO)
Marianas High School
SAIPAN

Mr Herbert Yamada
Private School Youth Representative (NGO)
Mt. Carmel High School
SAIPAN

Miss Florence Selepeo Kirby
Coordinator
Youth Development Program
Division of Youth Services
Department of Community & Cultural Affairs
P.O. Box 1000
SAIPAN CM96950

Miss Cecilia Masga Tudela
Coordinator, Student Activities
Marianas High School
Public School System
SAIPAN

Palau

Mr Albert Shiro
Director
Bureau of Community Services
P.O. Box 100
KOROR 96940

Mr Caleb Ulitch
Chairman
Palau Youth Olympic Sports Committee
Bureau of Community Services
P.O. Box 100
KOROR 96940

Papua New Guinea

Mr Belden Sevua
Secretary
Department of Home Affairs and Office of the Secretary
BOROKO

Mr John Maru
Assistant Secretary
Youth Division
Department of Home Affairs and Office of the Secretary
BOROKO

Solomon Islands

Mr Emilio Bulu
Under Secretary
Ministry of Home Affairs
P.O. Box G11
HONIARA
Mr Casper Fa'asala
Executive Secretary
Solomon Islands National Youth Congress
HONIARA

Tokelau

Miss Hina Puka
Office for Tokelau Affairs
P.O. Box 865
APIA
Western Samoa

Mrs Sosefina Lui
Office for Tokelau Affairs
P.O. Box 865
APIA
Western Samoa

Tonga

Mr Viliami Ha'unga
Acting Deputy Principal
Community Development and Training Centre
NUKU'ALOFA

Mr Muli 'Atiola
Secretary
Tonga National Youth Congress
NUKU'ALOFA

Tuvalu

Ms Teuleala Manuella
Community Affairs Officer
Ministry of Health, Education and Community Affairs
FUNAFUTI

Mr Teakini Talafou
Tuvalu Association of Non-Government Organizations Office
FUNAFUTI

Vanuatu

Mr John Bani
National Youth Coordinator
Department of Sports and Youth Affairs
PORT VILA

Mr Seth Kaurua
Program Manager
FSP/VRDTCA
P.O. Box 951
PORT VILA

Wallis and Futuna

M. Alesio Savea
Président de la Commission permanente
de l'Assemblée Territoriale
MATA'UTU

Western Samoa

Mr Sydney Faasau
Senior Officer
Ministry of Youth, Sports and Culture
APIA

Mr Leu Vaegaau Soutaga
Executive Secretary
Roman Catholic Youth Department
P.O. Box 1253
APIA

OBSERVERS

Baha'i International Community	Ms Sian Smith 135 Aro Street Aro Valley WELLINGTON New Zealand
	Mr Justin Pratt c/- 3 Kasau St NAPIER New Zealand
Commonwealth Youth Programme (CYP)	Mr Hannington Alatoa Director Commonwealth Youth Programme South Pacific Regional Centre SUVA Fiji
United Nations Educational, Scientific and CulturalOrganization (UNESCO)	Mr Peter Higginson Chief UNESCO Office for the Pacific States P.O. Box 5766 APIA Western Samoa
United Nations Volunteer Domestic Development Service (UNVDDS)	Ms Josephine Keelan UNVDDS APIA Western Samoa
World Assembly of Youth (W.A.Y.)	Mr Amosa Vaetae Vice-President World Assembly of Youth National Youth Council P.O. Box 468 APIA Western Samoa
World Health Organization (WHO)	Mr Laisiasa B. Wainikesa Project Co-ordinator WHO/UNESCO School AIDS Education in the Pacific C/- UNDP Private Mail Bag SUVA Fiji

CONSULTANTS

SPC Youth Consultant	Mr Sam Vanini
Conference Rapporteur	Ms Seini Baravilala

SPC SECRETARIAT

Deputy Director of of Programmes	Mr Vaasatia Poloma Komiti
Youth Development Officer	Mr Pio Bosco Tikoisuva
Assistant Youth Development Officer	Ms Jean Tuarae
Executive Assistant	Mr Alan March
Health Co-ordinator	Dr Sitaleki Finau
Tropical Agriculturalist	Dr S. Malcolm Hazelman
Instructor Agriculture	Mr Akerei Salesa
Radio Broadcast Assistant	Mr Yaminiasi Gaunavou
AIDS Information Officer	Mr Steven Vete
Manager Interpretation-Translation Section/	Mr Patrick Cowan
Interpreters	Mr Claude Colomer Miss Dominique Toulet Miss Valérie Hassan
Maintenance Technician	Mr Robert Watters
French Typist	Miss Caroline Besnier
Conference Secretary	Miss Vive Vuruya

ANNEX 1

SUMMARIES OF COUNTRY STATEMENTS

AMERICAN SAMOA

The youth of today are probably facing one of the most difficult and challenging times of their lives and this is largely attributable to the advent of modern technologies and the pressure of the 'dollar economy' in our developing society. The 'dollar economy' was seen by some as a blessing, but for others perhaps the simple life of fish, coconut and banana would have sufficed.

None the less, we must progress with time and with this come the influences which are having their effect on our young people. Hence, our responsibility – as island country leaders, as parents, and as concerned citizens – is to provide every opportunity necessary to help our young people to become better citizens, better leaders, better fathers and mothers and better contributors to society. American Samoa is no different from other island nations in the region. It is having its own share of problems in the areas of drugs, alcohol, child abuse, suicide, teenage pregnancies etc. In fact, American Samoa has one of the highest alcohol consumption rates per capita in the world. Our government is now beginning to recognise the role and the problems of our youth and through its recently organised Youth Division is seriously endeavouring to work closely with the numerous church organisations, which, over the years, have been very active in youth activities and programmes and have been instrumental in minimising the youth problems associated with those things listed above.

There are a number of programmes in existence in both Government, and community and church organisations to provide appropriate services for the youth in American Samoa.

There is a need for closer co-ordination between government and NGOs and to ensure more active participation from the youth themselves in the decision-making process to meet their needs in the area of education, employment, social/health, and economic/political concerns.

COOK ISLANDS

Because of the growing concern of Government with the youth problems in the Cook Islands, in March 1989 a Ministry of Youth and Sports was formally established to better co-ordinate youth programmes in the Government sector. Similarly youth organisations were concerned with the lack of a national co-ordinating mechanism in the non-government sector to enable the bringing together of youth groups from different denominations and backgrounds. This resulted in the establishment of the Cook Islands National Youth Council with its own Constitution on 6 October 1989. With these two structures in place youth work is now better directed.

The limited employment opportunities in the formal sector create a major problem for Government in trying to employ the high number of school leavers (or youth), thus forcing the unemployed to move into the non-formal sector or even migrate overseas, mainly to New Zealand, to seek employment. Nevertheless every effort is being made to create an attractive employment climate or incentives in the non-formal sector, e.g. wood-carving and handicrafts programmes.

In addition there are alcohol-related and smoking problems which the Health Education Programme of the Ministry of Health (in consultation with other relevant Government or non-Government bodies) is devising and implementing strategies to overcome.

Appropriate youth training is an area which is on-going to enhance the role of youth in the community. These are economic, social and culture-related programmes.

The breaking down of the traditional social structure has resulted in lawlessness and disharmony. It is recommended to revert back to the traditional social structure to maintain law and order in the community. In youth work this is very important because youth is seen as part of the community and all concerns relating to youth are seen as concerns of society as a whole.

FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA

General

The Federated States of Micronesia is a constitutional federation composed of four autonomous island states, namely Pohnpei, Chuuk (formerly Truk), Yap and Kosrae, with their own Constitutional governments. These are scattered over an area of approximately two million square miles of ocean in the North Western Pacific.

Youth development

Due primarily to lack of funds, youth development programmes on a national level have always been very difficult to develop and implement. This is even more so due to the distances separating these four states. The concept of youth is relatively new in FSM and so youth development programmes are in their early stages. These vary from state to state determined by local needs and traditional influences.

The introduction of this new concept (Youth) has created a gap in our community by introducing age limits together with segregating a portion of the community to address specific needs. Prior to this, youth has always been an integral part of the community, and from our experience, youth development programmes conducted in isolation from the community approach are, in most cases, doomed to fail.

Employment

Lack of employment opportunities both in government and private sectors, coupled with low-paying jobs, are the main factors contributing to unemployment in the urban areas. However, the problem is not considered as serious in the rural areas. In urban areas, the traditional next-of-kin support provided by extended family tends to diffuse the urgency to find work by some young people.

The government, however, provides training programmes to improve employment opportunities for youth.

Each state has embarked on various projects to assist its youth, such as can-recycling, fishing and agriculture. The lack of funds coupled with uncertain market outlets often deter such initiatives.

Substance abuse

The main cause of substance abuse among our youth is peer group pressure and the abuse of these substances has increased alarmingly in the past ten years, mainly in the urban areas where these are being obtained commercially.

Lack of law enforcement and inadequate educational awareness programmes on the harmful effects of these substances and their accessibility have given rise to the recent increase in the number of young people abusing these substances.

Youth offices in all four states have initiated programmes to address youth problems, including substance abuse.

High priority for youth development efforts should be given by the government to provide adequate funding for both state and national youth programmes.

FIJI

Youth

Youths (15–24 years old) make up 24 per cent of the total population and are the country's most valuable resource. The Government will continue to provide them with opportunities which will help them to develop their full potential and play a major role in the economic and social

development of the country. It has set up a comprehensive youth development programme which aims to provide continuing education and training for school leavers, for self-employment and community work. The thrust of youth development is to provide opportunities for continuing education and training for out-of-school youths and adults through non-formal education programmes.

Rural Youth Programme

Youth councils have been formed in all villages/community settlements as the basis for helping them work in organised groups for income-generating activities and other community work, with finance normally provided by government. Training is being provided for leadership, management and vocational technical skills. About 60 per cent of young people live in rural areas where more self-employment activities should be established.

Urban Youth Programme

In urban areas national youth organisations provide activities on leadership training, business management and vocational skill training, leading towards self-employment and setting up small business enterprises. The establishment of youth centres and other religious youth organisations contributed to the strengthening of youth participation in voluntary community work.

Unemployment

Out of the total labour force of 241,160 recorded in the 1986 census, 18,189 were unemployed, of whom 74 per cent were youths.

Youth training scheme

A number of schemes are currently enforced to assist out-of-school youths in finding employment or creating their own. These are the National Youth Band, the Duke of Edinburgh Award, the rehabilitation programme for prison inmates, the Youth Employment Option Centre and the National Youth Training Camp.

The Youth Employment Option Centre was designed as a 'one-stop shop' to assist young people make an informed career choice.

The National Youth Training Camp, whilst concentrating on agriculture and other vocational skills training, also accommodates the OISCA-International (Japan) programme on agriculture, with special emphasis on spiritual mobilisation and self-discipline as the basis of character building.

Sports

Government will continue to assist sports in whatever way it can because it believes that sports can serve as an effective vehicle for healthy social interactions of our youth as well as providing an opportunity for young people to obtain success and achievements in something that they enjoy and can do best.
Government efforts have materialised in the formation of the Fiji Sports Council and the Fiji Institute of Sports to cater for the young people's sporting development needs.

FRENCH POLYNESIA

French Polynesia, a Territory enjoying internal self-government status, has a population of 188,814, of whom 107,533 are under 25 (1988 census). Youth matters are the Territory's responsibility and are handled by a Minister for Youth.

A variety of steps have been taken to improve living conditions for young people in the following spheres: education, employment and vocational training, health, sporting and cultural recreation, holiday centres, training for youth leaders, social problems, etc.

These activities are, however, co-ordinated by different ministries. A committee, comprising state and Territorial institutions (whose establishment is under consideration), will be given overall responsibility for the co-ordination of activities so as to improve follow-up and effectiveness.

The overall goal of these schemes is to train young people to be capable of taking their responsibilities and to ease their integration into society and an occupation.

It is to be hoped that all current activities designed to resolve the problems of young people, which are a source of concern both for the Territorial and local authorities and for the young people themselves, can be tackled under a coherent, co-ordinated, Territorial youth policy, aiming to get the community fully involved and better informed about the opportunities available.

GUAM

A brief general overview of the state of youth development in our country

The present administration has made the concerns of our Island youth a major governmental priority. Education and vocational training, specifically, have been a primary focus with an emphasis on tourist-related employment and training programmes. Efforts have been made to allow our young citizens employment opportunities by requiring (by law) private companies to give hiring preferences to our local people. This policy includes all areas of employment from construction trades to the artwork utilised in our hotel lobbies.

Foreign investors have been very sensitive and responsive to this affirmative action which allows our young citizens greater opportunities to share in the economic expansion of our Island community. Additionally, programmes relative to drug education, vocational career exploration and general work experience are being developed and administered by many of our governmental departments and agencies, under the direction of the Governor's office.

The unemployment problems among youth

As Guam's economy continues to grow, unemployment has dropped below 1.2 per cent in the general population. As indicated in the *Guam Quarterly Economic Review* vol. 13, no. 1, Table 6, teenagers were the major contributors to the island's unemployment decline; by September 1990 youth unemployment had dropped from 15.8 per cent to approximately 7.9 per cent.

Governmental policies have long supported many of Guam's social programmes and educational institutions directed towards youth. The situation we are presently confronted with is that many of our young people enter the labour market and settle for low-paying jobs with little opportunity for advancement.

To address this concern the Guam Community College and the Agency for Human Resources Development have established programmes such as Career Exploration, Community Base Training, Work Experience and Co-operative Education.

In addition, the College also administers the Apprenticeship Training Program in over 15 occupations.

Substance abuse problems among youth

Substance abuse is a growing major concern among the island's youth. Some causes are related to the breakdown of traditional coping mechanisms within the extended family system. With the increase in dual-career families many youth are experiencing a sense of displacement and social disillusionment because of the lack of adult supervision.

To address this problem specific programmes have been instituted such as Beginning Alcohol Addictions Basic Education Studies (BABES), a nationally recognised, exemplary substance abuse prevention programme, the Dededo Drug-Free Youth Organization and Project PRO (Parents Reaching Out) facilitating village-based outreach efforts.

Youth and the law

A major cause of lawlessness in most Island societies is economic disenchantment and the development of a permanent social subclass (i.e. alienation). Major crimes committed involve murder, larceny and theft.

To address this problem among youth it is important to reduce the degree of alienation. Ensuring that the educational system is on a par with the new industrial environment, and allowing maximum and valuable participation along with economic justice will improve the chances of success for these young people.

Youth and community

The youth are taking an active role in environmental issues, participating in activities that promote cultural awareness, and are highly encouraged to continue to be vocal advocates on their own behalf (i.e. Youth Month, Youth Congress, Guam Summer Youth Employment and Training Programme).

REPUBLIC OF KIRIBATI

The Republic of Kiribati, formerly called the Gilbert Islands, comprises three main groups of islands – the Gilberts, with 17 Islands and the Phoenix and Line Islands, each with 8. Of those 33 islands, 20 are inhabited. The country has a total land area of approximately 684 km, scattered over an area of more than 5 million km^2 of ocean.

In 1987 the population increased to 64,000, about 20 per cent of whom live in Tarawa, the centre of government administration and commercial activity. Kiribati achieved independence in 1979 and through that process of development adapted the Western model of legislature (House of Parliament) into a so-called 'Maneaba System'.

More than 65 per cent of the total population are under the age of 25, about 42 per cent of whom are under 14 years of age. The Government is fully aware of the potential in youth but the demands from this sector of population far exceed what the Government can meaningfully provide, hence the need for external assistance.

Unemployment in Kiribati, as in other countries in the region, remains a problem – more so in the urban centres. The already limited job opportunities in the urban centres have been aggravated by the continuing rural-to-urban migration.

The Government is sensitive to these problems and is taking appropriate steps to address these areas, one of which is the encouragement given to youth organisations and women to be involved in income-generation activities. However, the need for a clear youth policy is still paramount to ensure that serious attention is duly accorded to the young people.

Substance abuse problems among youth are increasing and are probably caused by change and a lack of social control and proper education. Government together with NGOs, especially the churches, are playing a vital role in the attempt to reduce the abuse of these substances.

Training will continue to be an important factor in the development of the out-of-school youth and skills training is being addressed to improve employment opportunities.

Most youth programmes are directed towards assisting community development, particularly in the outer islands. This has been indicated by strong support from church and community leaders.

REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS

The young generation under the age of 25 represent more than 50 per cent of the total population of the Republic of the Marshall Islands. They are very fortunate to be represented today at this Youth Conference here in Pago Pago which will be attended by representatives from the Republic of the Marshall Islands.

For nearly a decade, members of the Nitijela (Parliament) have constantly expressed their great concern over our Government's inability to deal effectively with problems relating to our evergrowing youth population. Statistics clearly support these claims.

Also, recent studies indicate that the suicide rate among our youths has increased dramatically, so much so that it is considered one of the highest in the world.

In 1986 the Parliament through an Act created the Youth Advisory Board in our Republic. The role of the Youth Advisory Board is to serve as an umbrella agency in youth development.

Two years later in 1988, by directive from the Office of the Cabinet, the Ministry of Social Services was instructed to establish a National Youth Congress. With help from SPC and the ESCAP (EPOC) programmes, a workshop was conducted which involved participants selected by their respective mayors from islands and atolls throughout the Republic.

Progress on the proposed National Youth Congress moved slowly if at all. Today we are at the final stages of establishing this long-awaited youth organisation, thanks to another visit made by an SPC adviser.

Presently our National Youth Development Programme comprises Boy and Girl Scout programmes, sport and recreation programmes; and our National Development Work Corps. This latter programme includes the recruitment of unemployed youths. The programme consists of groups of young people who are sent to the outer islands on training and preparatory activities. The groups consist of 20 young people who receive a financial allowance during their two-month stay. The training that they will receive will prepare them upon their return to join the workforce and to be productive members of our community.

The problems and needs of our youths are many while our means of counteracting them are limited. We truly hope that from this conference we will be able to obtain some ideas to take home which will solve the problems and address the needs of the young people in the Marshall Islands.

Again we thank the South Pacific Commission for this great opportunity and the previous visit made by your youth consultant.

REPUBLIC OF NAURU

It is the prime objective of concerned citizens, various non-governmental bodies, local key employers and the Division of Youth and Cultural Affairs (under the present Ministry and Department of Health and Education) that Nauruan youths be regarded as a potential resource for the progress and well-being of Nauru's future, and thus should be trained and nurtured as such.

With regard to the above, measures have been taken to establish the Division of Youth and Cultural Affairs in order to facilitate and link the Government directly to this target group. It is felt that the main issues to be addressed immediately are out-of-school youths, out-of-work youths, improper work placements of youths and a possible review of the educational and training systems affecting youth in particular (this will have to involve some degree of corrective and preventive analysis and action). Substance abuse is also present on the island as a result of youths being unattended and/or being influenced into these anti-social acts.

All in all it is required that a hard and fast database be first established regarding all the above concerns through social research. The Division of Youth and Cultural Affairs is at present conducting research in several areas but at a very rushed and pressured pace due to deadlines that have to be met.

Extra assistance and appropriate expertise in the field of statistics and social research is required to facilitate Nauru's desire to achieve its prime objective.

NEW CALEDONIA

Unemployment in young people

In New Caledonia, unemployment mainly affects young people and primarily young women. Sixty-five per cent of job-seekers are under 30 and 44 per cent under 25 years of age. Most of the young unemployed are concentrated in Noumea and the surrounding area.

The main cause of youth unemployment is lack of occupational qualifications. The French State, the Territory and the Provinces have therefore taken action to improve integration into the workforce, develop appropriate training and support micro-projects (particularly in rural areas). This co-operative effort should be intensified and directed more specifically towards fields and sectors of activity where a genuine shortage of skilled workers exists.

Tobacco, alcohol and drug abuse

A study is being conducted over 1991 in order to determinc the number of deaths caused by alcohol abuse (organic lesions or road accidents) but no official statistics are yet available.

The causes of tobacco, alcohol and drug abuse are linked to a number of socio-economic and socio-cultural factors such as acculturation, idleness, and a desire to be 'fashionable', look self-assured, etc.

Current efforts mainly focus on information in schools and public places, awareness-raising campaigns and support for treatment and reintegration programmes. These efforts should be continued, and reinforced through adoption of effective legislation by the Territorial Congress, since French laws on smoking and cigarette and alcohol advertising are not enforceable in the Territory.

Training

Schooling is compulsory to the age of 16 and every effort is being made to provide effective further training for school leavers.

Specific training opportunities in youth and sports leadership are open to young people seeking formal recognition of their skills, professional or otherwise.

The place of young people in the community

Much is being done to improve integration of young people and give them responsibilities, particularly in the urban area (through neighbourhood youth associations, sport, culture and music, community development, etc.). Work along these lines should be continued and intensified to combat unemployment and discrimination, enhance co-operation between companies and the various social partners, develop information, school counselling and vocational guidance, and generally respond to the needs and hopes of young people.

NIUE

Background

Niue is an isolated island with a total population of approximately 2500 people (based on the last census in 1989). Age limits of persons classified as youth ranged from 14 to 35 years. Of the total population, 32.7 per cent are young people; 55 per cent of these are school students at the secondary school.

Briefing on current situation

The Niue Government gives special emphasis to the development of youth activities and programmes. The objectives in its Concerted Action Plan aim to provide young people with a stimulus and challenge to make a contribution towards the community living in Niue.

The Government Youth Office was established in 1981 and further consolidated by the establishment of the National Youth Council in 1982. The Council registered its Constitution with the Government on 8 June 1984.

Education

Education is compulsory for both primary and secondary level with the sixth form being the highest level, both theory and practical being well integrated. Education is free with virtually no case of school drop-out.

Training

Government, in partnership with the private sector, has established an employment scheme for school leavers for those who missed out on overseas scholarships and/or a job with the Government.

Employment scheme

Year	Government funding (%)	Private sector funding (%)
1	75%	25%
2	50%	50%
3	25%	75%
4	–	100%

There are 12 school leavers currently engaged on this scheme.

In 1990 SPC funded the National Conference and the Niue Youth Council. The camp provides training for youth on cultural activities and preparation of project proposals and management.

Employment

Most school leavers have a job with government and very few opted to work in the private sector.

While the economic future for Niue is gloomy, Government and non-Government leaders are confident of accepting the challenge of youth – in reality this would be a great opportunity to challenge the youth of today and see what they can do for the youth of tomorrow.

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Brief overview

Co-operation between Government and private sectors has resulted in the present healthy state of affairs in the Commonwealth's youth development efforts. The services of the Division of Youth of Government are provided to all organisations involved in youth programmes. Recently, the Government has allocated a building for youth activity programmes and the youth have commenced fund-raising activities for the renovation of the Centre.

The recent rapid developments in the Island have resulted in an increase in juvenile delinquency, truancy and social problems.

Unemployment

Finding a job is not a problem, but not having the required skills has been the handicap to most youth seeking employment, since many young people drop out of school without obtaining their school diploma. The new Youth Centre will provide a General Education Diploma and various trade skills to these out-of-school youth.

Substance abuse

Alcohol abuse is a very serious problem and has resulted in death in a couple of cases. This is attributable to weak law enforcement with regards to drinking and selling and other related harmful practices such as the public exhibition of pornographic materials easily accessible to our young people. Drugs, such as ice (SABU-SABIL), are becoming a major concern.

Training

Presently, there is no training of any kind available for out-of-school youth except that offered in industries for the employees.

Youth and the law

There are existing laws created to protect our young people. Most crimes committed are related to property abuse. Designated time every week is set aside by the court specifically to address juvenile matters, restricted to parents/caretakers and youth service professionals.

Youth and the community

The youths are attempting, wherever possible, to draw on their own group resources in initiating projects. The community on the other hand has been very supportive and we have learnt that to solicit community support successfully, all it needs is for youth and youth advocates to communicate with the community regarding plans and projects.

REPUBLIC OF PALAU

Background

Palau is the last of the U.S. Trust Territories under the auspices of the United Nations Security Council. We have been in the process of terminating our Trusteeship with the U.S. for over 15 years. The uncertainity of our future has placed budget constraints on youth development priorities to combat our socio-economic problems.

Youth problems have been identified with unemployment, substance abuse, increasing school drop-out, child abuse and an increase in the crime rate among the juvenile population. However, the government youth office is attempting to address these problems and at the same time encouraging youth's participation in the decision-making process with regard to policies and programmes affecting them.

Unemployment

Unemployment, according to a survey in April 1990, is estimated to be higher than 13 per cent in both rural and urban areas. Major causes are early school dropout, a labour force of unskilled workers, substance abuse, lack of appropriate work behaviour, skills and motivation, and an increasing reliance on cheap foreign labour.

Networking with other youth organisations

There are a number of agencies in Palau which are actively involved with youth, such as Youth Division of Government, Literacy Program, OJT (on the job training) Program, Job Placement Program, Job Corps Program, the Department of Education, Mental Health Department, JTPA (Job Training Partnership Act), Juvenile Justice Program, Palau National Youth Congress, Palau Community Action Agency, Catholic Youth Organisation, Evangelical Youth Organisation, traditional youth clubs, and the Micronesian Occupational College.

Youth and the law

The obvious causes of crimes committed by youth are drugs and alcohol. A number of programmes are mounted by PCAA, Community Services and Juvenile Justice for the prevention of alcohol consumption.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

The development of youth in Papua New Guinea has its origins far back in the pre-Independence years through the Church and other non-government organisations like the Scouts.

The National Government in 1980 introduced the national Youth Movement Programme, the official government programme until 1990 when it was replaced by the National Youth Service. This now seeks to encourage greater participation and involvement of the NGOs and the private sector to address new social issues that are on the rise as part of Papua New Guinea's rapid economic growth and growing social disparities which are contributing to problems such as upsurges in crime, rapidly declining moral standards and discipline.

Youth employment is a major problem due to inadequate expansion in employment opportunities. Furthermore, the high turn out of inadequately trained school leavers, high out-migration and an inadequately developed agricultural sector are exerting an enormous pressure on the small labour market.

The use and abuse of illicit substances are becoming a growing problem among Papua New Guinea's young people. Tougher penalties are being considered by Government and efforts increased to curb widespread growing and marketing of the substances. The lucrative street prices are becoming a dependable income source for both growers and sellers. A number of initiatives are being contemplated, such as subsidised employment and a Youth Revolving Fund, together with a drug and alcohol teaching package to involve NGOs.

Disciplined training to include spiritual development and a proper curriculum is anticipated to replace the older form of training where difficulties were encountered in assessment and follow-up. This is a major area on which the Department of Home Affairs and Youth is focusing.

The major causes of law and order problems appear to be alcohol consumption, unemployment and the growing social disparity amongst the populace. However, there are further attributable factors such as population pressure, the high cost of living, etc. Now that the Children's Court is in existence, what needs to be considered is an after-care scheme to resettle juveniles effectively.

Youth is regarded as an integral part of the community and this concept has guided the development of the youth programme along a community-based framework. This is very much built into the existing traditional structure of Papua New Guinea which is guided by the communal ideology as a basis of survival.

SOLOMON ISLANDS

General information

Youth matters and other related areas (Culture and Welfare) are the responsibility of the Government under the Ministry of Home Affairs. The Government youth policies will be pursued through the Solomon Islands National Youth Congress with the aim of mobilising the young people as stipulated in its Programme of Action 1991 – 1993.

National Youth Congress

The Solomon Islands National Youth Congress was established in 1980 by an Act of Parliament and was registered as a charitable organisation in 1983. Its membership consists of officers from local churches, uniformed groups, provinces and municipalities.

Unemployment

The 1986 census revealed that young people constituted more than 50 per cent of the total population; the population explosion with a growth rate of 3.5 per cent is a source of concern. The recent 2.4 per cent rise in employment is still insufficient compared with the population growth rate. The Solomon Islands National Youth Congress is attempting to address this problem by encouraging youths to create their own opportunities; from time to time it offers needed assistance.

Substance abuse

Excessive consumption of alcohol is a widespread problem and is normally the cause of other social problems youth become involved in. Stiffer laws are called for to deter the present problem.

Training

The Solomon Islands National Youth Congress conducts training for differing categories of people, addressing specific needs in areas of skills development, awareness raising, management and training for trainers. Other organisations, both regional and international, are also active in the training of our young people.

Youth and the law

Apart from alcohol-related crimes, Solomon Islands youth are normally very docile and well-behaved. Rural to urban migration is causing some concern by the urban concentration of lawlessness. Records revealed that there is more adult crime than juvenile.

Youth and the community

The Solomon Islands Government recognised the need to integrate youth programmes into total community development plans, resulting in the adoption in 1988 of the National Youth Plan currently being implemented by the Solomon Islands National Youth Congress.

TOKELAU

Establishment and administration

Tokelau Youth, although not officially established until 1987, was operating under an NGO, i.e. the Church, for more than ten years.

In 1987, a National Youth Conference was held aiming to clarify the following queries, as to who should be considered as youth and the need to set up a youth organisation.

The first question concluded that males and females, married and unmarried, between ages of 17 and 35 were to be defined to be as youth. As for the second question, a number of objectives and aims were outlined such as:

> *To prepare the young people for the life in the community so they may become effective and fruitful contributors to their families and community.*

Since 1987, Tokelau youth has had its fair share of achievements and problems.

Achievements

A number of projects were created to engage the youths of Tokelau. These are a youth scheme (attachment in Apia), rehabilitation programme (after Cyclone Ofa), and 'keep the Environment clean' (community, shores and shallow waters), youth newsletter and a gardening project.

Problems

Due to commitments with the communal responsibilities, youth groups are only able to meet briefly in the evenings. To be able to carry out their tasks as a group, they can only do so between working hours and the fall of evening. i.e. 4.30 – 6.00 pm.
The shortage of government funding for youth prevents youth groups implementing and achieving their needs and wants.

They have identified their needs to be:

(i) Implement income generating projects;
(ii) Short courses on technical skills;
(iii) Trained person with skills in psychology and counselling to assist the youths in the process of developing themselves and young people to adults; human development.

KINGDOM OF TONGA

Youth development in Tonga in the last 50 years was the prime responsibility of the Education Department. The goals were directed mainly for academic achievements (5–10% of school students).

It was not until the last two decades that government realised the importance of youths (who comprise 80% of the whole population) for the overall development of the country (socially, politically and economically), and the need to re-assess the Education Department's goals.

The establishment of small industries under the Labour and Commerce Ministry, private organisations and enterprises as well as many community services and organisations (Tupou Young Farmers, youth groups, etc.) are all efforts to counter the increasing rate of unemployment. The Government established other services in rural areas and outer islands to minimise the problems of rural to urban migration to capital towns, especially Nuku'alofa (which at present contains 20% of the whole population).

The Community Development and Training Centre established in 1988 is a significant development. Perhaps the most important development is the establishment of the Tonga National Youth Congress in 1990 to look after youth and development needs.

Law should help people rather than finding faults to punish them. Government should ban the sale of liquor in retail shops and discourage the import of alcohol (high duties and strict licences). A juvenile court as well as a rehabilitation centre should be established to help with problem youths.

Tonga is now experiencing a major shift by Government and the community at large in recognising the great potential of youth as key elements in development including sport.

TUVALU

General overview

Tuvalu started its National Youth Council in 1987 and with SPC assistance was able to draft its constitution.

The Tuvalu National Youth Council's (TNYC) membership is drawn from youth groups in all eight islands together with other non-government organisations such as the Red Cross, the Bahaï Community, Boy Scouts, Girl Guides, SDA, TCYF, Boys' Brigade and Girls' Brigade.

These have formed themselves into what is known as the Tuvalu Association of Non-Government Organisations (TANGO), an independent body.
Like the TNYC, TANGO is a body which co-ordinates the efforts of its youth group members.

Problems

Unemployment – Probably similar to other Pacific Islands, unemployment is also a problem in Tuvalu, especially in Funafuti where the migration of outer islands youth is most directed because of the attractions it offers. Social problems inevitably follow, predominantly as a result of excessive consumption of alcohol.
Substance abuse – This is not yet a problem since drugs are not sold or grown in Tuvalu. However, as a precautionary measure, young people are continuously reminded of the ill effects of taking drugs.

Training – SPC's and CYP's contributions to the training of the young people of Tuvalu are much appreciated; it is hoped that these young people will be able to train others in the area of youth development. So far three have graduated with CYP Diplomas and two are still pursuing these diplomas; community workers under the Integrated Island Development Officer are working closely with the Island communities to meet the aspirations and needs of the young people appropriately.

Assistance from SPC – SPC's assistance with small projects for youth is acknowledged and the gardening project presently undertaken is proving very successful. SPC is requested also to consider other similar requests pending assistance.

VANUATU

Youth development in Vanuatu is still in its infancy. The country has yet to have its National Youth Council.

The first National Youth Policy was developed early in 1990. One major requirement set out in the policy is the establishment of a National Youth Council. This body will serve as a forum in which issues relating to the needs, problems and aspirations of young people can be discussed.

The young people of Vanuatu have not been given sufficient opportunities to participate actively in the development of their community and nation. Establishment of the National Youth Council will undoubtedly open avenues for them to have a stronger voice in the country on any matters of their interest. It will also provide a national youth network for the co-ordination and unifying of all youth groups and activities throughout the nation under one national youth development programme. Work to set up a National Youth Council is now in process.

The strategy implemented by the Department of Youth and Sports on the development of the National Youth Council has three stages. Stage One commences with the ground work at area or village level. This is important as 80 per cent of young people live in the rural areas and they provide the foundation upon which the National Youth Council will be firmly built. At the village level, area youth committees will be formed. When this first phase is completed, regional (or island) youth councils will then be formed with representatives elected from area youth committees. Establishment of all regional youth councils will complete the second phase of the programme and the last phase is the formation of a National Youth Council with elected representatives from regional youth councils. Until the National Youth Council is formed, youth of Vanuatu will only have a limited say in the development of the country and on any matters of importance for their development.

The time will come for them to decide on their own destiny. They have been the main victims of many of the socio-economic problems experienced by many developing countries. Issues such as urban drift and unemployment are closely linked with young people of Vanuatu.

In Vanuatu an estimated 4,000 school leavers enter the labour market each year. The situation is getting worse and is becoming a great concern for our community.

Vocational training centres set up by churches and interested individuals aim to offer some glimmer of hope for a useful life to young people who have been forced out by the education system adopted from previous colonial powers.

The National Youth Council, once established, will do more for the young people of Vanuatu through its development programme. It is for this reason that the Government has decided to establish the Youth Council as the number one priority for this year, 1991, in its youth development programme.

WALLIS AND FUTUNA

Sixty per cent of Wallis and Futuna's young people are under 15 years of age. One major youth problem is unemployment, because local employment prospects are very limited.

Development of the private sector and vocational training are the essential prerequisites for the advancement of young people. The Territory is commited to training appropriate to its real needs and focusing on developing sectors such as fisheries and tourism, and to diversifying and improving the standard of the training provided.

Cigarette and alcohol abuse also affect young people. To combat these social scourges, the Territory is combining health education with steps to bring these problems under control and introduce relevant legislation. Anti-alcohol and smoking campaigns should be orchestrated with job creation schemes.

Juvenile delinquency is only a minor problem as yet, because of the influence of custom on society.

WESTERN SAMOA

General overview

Prior to 1976 the needs of the out-of-school youth were predominantly the concerns of the main church denominations and village councils until a separate department of Youth, Sports and Cultural Affairs was set up in 1976 under the Ministry of Labour. It was not until 1982 that it became autonomous and has since been instrumental in co-ordinating all national activities for youth. Non-government organisations, on the other hand, have always and still play a very important role in the development of our young people.

The national youth policy yet to be enacted by Government will enable young people to have a say in what is best for them. The universal suffrage recently introduced to the country's voting system is a positive step in the recognition of the potential of youth.

Unemployment

Like most developing countries, Western Samoa has a relatively youthful population and faces the adverse reality of population growth, and the serious consequences of large numbers of unskilled unemployed youth. Lack of available job opportunities coupled with rural to urban migration add to the problem. A selective education system has also contributed over the years and has recently been modified to prepare future youth adequately for the world of work. In attempting to reduce this problem, the Government, together with NGOs, is promoting youth enterprise initiatives through training programmes and various other projects with the use of locally available resources.

Substance abuse

The seriousness of this problem can be measured from the number of drug-related (marijuana) offences handled by the authorities. The increase in marijuana farms discovered is alarming. Peer group pressure and lack of meaningful activities for youth also contribute to this problem. Both government and NGOs are active in mounting education programmes aimed at informing young people of the negative effects of these substances. Home management and family welfare are equally emphasised and counselling services are ably provided by the Health authorities.

Training

Workshops and seminars are often held, aimed at skills training and awareness programme for village-related activities. These include home economics, advanced sewing, bone carving, agriculture and fisheries-related programmes. Management training is also carried out and so too is sport, a popular area for youth.

Youth and the law

Youth problems with the law are due mainly to unemployment (lack of useful activity), poor family communication and poor education.

Juvenile crimes are on the increase and generally associated with peer group pressure; this problem tends to indicate a need for a juvenile court.

Youth and the community

Youth in Western Samoa are not treated and cannot be treated separately from the community because of our strong traditional and cultural heritage.

Youth is seen as a substantial contributor to community development efforts. Most community development programmes are self-funded and youth play a major role in providing the required manpower for their implementation.