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SOUTH PACIFIC COMMISSION

FOURTH REGIONAL CONFERENCE OF PACIFIC WOMEN

(Suva, Fiji, 17 - 23 September, 1988)

REPORT

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CONTENTS

	Page
I. INTRODUCTION	1
II. AGENDA	3
III. LIST OF PARTICIPANTS	9
IV. SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS	25
V. RECOMMENDATIONS	45
VI. LIST OF WORKING PAPERS PRESENTED TO THE CONFERENCE	68

ANNEXES

Annex I	- Address by the Honourable Afioga Pulefa'asisina P.M. Tuiasosopo, Secretary-General of the South Pacific Commission	71
Annex II	- Address by the Honourable Adi Finau Tabakaucoro, Minister for Women and Social Welfare	73
Annex III	- Pacific Women's Resource Bureau: an overview	75
Annex IV	- Progress in promoting women-orientated programmes	87
	- Attachment I - SPC work on women	91
Annex V	- New directions for the Pacific Women's Resource Bureau	99
Annex VI	- Report of planning meeting for Fourth Regional Women's Conference	101
	- Attachment I - List of participants	109
Annex VII	- Report on recommendations from Regional Meeting of Pacific Island Women NGOs and Joint Regional Meeting of Government Representatives and Repre- sentatives of Non-Government Organisations on Women's Affairs in the Pacific	111
Annex VIII	- Address by Mrs Lili King, Principal, Community Education Training Centre (CETC)	117
Annex IX	- Address by Mrs Bungtabu Brown, President, National Council of Women, Papua New Guinea, on the theme 'Pacific women: challenge to change'	123

	Page
Annex X - AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases in the Pacific islands	127
Annex XI - Alcohol and drug abuse in the Pacific: the impact on women	143
Annex XII - Women and food and nutrition in the Pacific	155
Annex XIII - Address by Dr Louise Morauta, Australian International Development Assistance Bureau, on the theme 'Women as decision-makers'	161
Annex XIV - Response by Mrs Hilda Kari, President, Solomon Islands National Council of Women, to the address on 'Women as decision-makers'	169
Annex XV - Presentation by Judge Janet Weeks to the workshop on Women and the Law	175
Annex XVI - Paper presented to the workshop on Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry by Ruth Liloqula (Solomon Islands)	179
Annex XVII - Address by Ms Neva Wendt (Environmental Education Officer, South Pacific Regional Environment Programme) to the workshop on the Role of Women's Organisations in Environmental Education	183
Annex XVIII - Local experience	187
Annex XIX - Address by Ms Faau'uga Lutu Achika on the theme 'Women in Education'	191
Annex XX - Recommendation of <i>ad hoc</i> meeting to discuss the CETC Curriculum Advisory Committee	195
Annex XXI - Meeting of the First Steering Committee of the Pacific Women's Regional Non-Government Organisations (PWRNGO)	197

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Joint Regional Meeting of Government Representatives and Representatives of Non-Government Organisations on Women's Affairs in the Pacific held in Rarotonga, Cook Islands, from 25-27 March, 1985, recommended that the South Pacific Commission (SPC) organise a follow-up Joint Regional Meeting of Government Representatives and Representatives of Non-Government Organisations in two years' time.

2. Following on this recommendation, the Fourth Regional Conference of Pacific Women was held in Suva, Fiji from 17-23 September, 1988.

3. The Conference was jointly hosted by the Government of Fiji and the South Pacific Commission, with funding generously provided by the Australian International Development Assistance Bureau (AIDAB). The Conference coincided with celebrations of the Twenty-fifth Anniversary of the SPC Community Education Training Centre.

4. The Conference was officially opened on 17 September 1988, at the Suva Civic Centre. Lady Bale Ganilau, wife of the President of the Republic of Fiji, delivered the opening prayer. This was followed by the traditional ceremonies of welcome which included the:

- *Qaloqalovi*
- *Sevusevu*
- *Yaqona Vakaturaga*
- *Wase ni Yaqona Vakaturaga*

5. The opening addresses were given by the Honourable Afioga Pulefa'asisina P. M. Tuiasosopo, Secretary-General of the South Pacific Commission, and the Honourable Adi Finau Tabakauoro, the Minister for Women and Social Welfare (Fiji). These addresses are appended as Annexes I and II.

6. The addresses were acknowledged in the traditional '*Ulivi ni Vosa Vakaturaga*'.

7. The closing prayer was delivered by the Reverend Mary Mills. This was followed by entertainment, which included the cutting of the Anniversary Cake and refreshments.

II. AGENDA

OFFICIAL OPENING - SATURDAY, 17 SEPTEMBER

Prayer: Lady Bale Ganilau

Traditional Ceremonies of Welcome

- *Qaloqalovi*
- *Sevusevu*
- *Yaqona Vakaturaga*
- *Wase ni Yaqona Vakaturaga*

Addresses

- The Honourable Afioga Pulefa'asisina P.M. Tuiasosopo, Secretary-General of the South Pacific Commission.
- The Honourable Adi Finau Tabakauoro, Minister for Women and Social Welfare.

Ulivi ni Vosa Vakaturaga

Prayer: Reverend Mary Mills

Cutting of Anniversary Cake/Morning Tea

Musical interlude by the Fiji Police Band

PLENARY SESSION - SATURDAY, 17 SEPTEMBER

Chair Hon. Adi Finau Tabakauoro, Minister for Women, and Social Welfare (Fiji)

Conference Business

1. Adoption of Agenda
2. Recommendations of the 1985 Conference
3. General Business

SUNDAY, 18 SEPTEMBER

Home hospitality

Ecumenical Church Service

Speaker Mrs Davila Walker (Fiji)

Venue Holy Trinity Cathedral

PLENARY SESSION - MONDAY, 19 SEPTEMBER

New Directions for:

1. Pacific Women's Resource Bureau, SPC
2. Community Education Training Centre (CETC)

Chair Mrs Lavenia Kaurasi, Principal Administrative Officer, Ministry of Education (Fiji)

Speakers Mrs Louise Aitsi-McMahon, SPC Women's Development Officer (English), Noumea
Mrs Lili King, Principal, SPC Community Education Training Centre (CETC), Suva
Mme Marie-Claire Beccalossi, New Caledonia

Panel Hon. Fiame Naomi Mata'afa (Western Samoa)
Mrs Tinai Hancock (Baha'i International Community)
Mme Béatrice Vernaudo (French Polynesia)
Mrs Tion Beiabure (Kiribati)
Sister Juliana Perez (Tokelau)

THEME - PACIFIC WOMEN: CHALLENGE TO CHANGE - MONDAY, 19 SEPTEMBER

Chair Mme Béatrice Vernaudo, Government Delegate, French Polynesia

Keynote Address Mrs Bungtabu Brown, President, National Council of Women (Papua New Guinea)

Response Mrs Marilyn Tahi, President, National Council of Women (Vanuatu)

Entertainment CETC Students

WORKSHOP (1) - WOMEN'S HEALTH - TUESDAY, 20 SEPTEMBER

Chair	Dr Jiko Cavu (Fiji)
Speakers	Ms Denise DeRoeck (SPC) Dr Jacqui Badcock (SPC)
Panel	Mrs Ngapoko Short (Cook Islands) Ms Digby Duncan (Australia) Ms Augusta Rengil (Guam)

WORKSHOP (2) - APPROPRIATE TECHNOLOGY - TUESDAY, 20 SEPTEMBER

Co-ordinators	Ms Cema Bolabola (Fiji) Ms Susana Evening (Fiji)
Resource Persons	Mr Taniela Colamoto (CETC) Adi Sai Tuivanuavou (CETC) Mr Franco Mateariki (CETC) Mr Philippe Ricaud-Dussarget (SPC) Ms Seini Tuiteci (Fiji) Adi Saurogo Gonelevu (Fiji)
Demonstrators	Staff and Students of CETC Mr Philippe Ricaud-Dussarget (SPC) Staff and Students of Methodist Handicraft Training Centre Nadroga women potters Women producers of traditional handicrafts Kalisi George, Craftswoman of the Year (Fiji)

WORKSHOP (3) - EMPLOYMENT AND SELF-EMPLOYMENT THROUGH INCOME GENERATION - TUESDAY, 20 SEPTEMBER

Chair	Mrs Mere Samisoni (Fiji)
Speaker	Ms Christine Cornwell, Director, ILO South Pacific Office (Suva, Fiji)
Panel	Mrs Pamela Pryor (South Pacific Economic Bureau for Co-operation) Mrs Bungtabu Brown (Papua New Guinea) Mrs Seniloli Sovea (Fiji)

WORKSHOP (4) - DEVELOPMENT PLANNING - TUESDAY, 20 SEPTEMBER

Chair	Mrs Margaret Nakikus (Papua New Guinea)
Speaker	Dr. Heather Booth (SPC)
Panel	Ms Fanaura Kingstone (ESCAP - Vanuatu) Adi Eci Kikau (Fiji) Mrs Luseane Ofa (Tonga)

THEME - WOMEN AS DECISION-MAKERS - TUESDAY, 20 SEPTEMBER

Chair	Adi Mei Kainona Gauna (Fiji)
Keynote Address	Dr Louise Morauta (Australian International Development Assistance Bureau)
Response	Ms Hilda Kari, President, National Council of Women (Solomon Islands)
Entertainment	Adi Cakobau Government Girls School

WORKSHOP (5) - WOMEN AND THE LAW - WEDNESDAY, 21 SEPTEMBER

Chair	Magistrate Vusega Helu (Fiji)
Speaker	Judge Janet Weeks (Guam)
Panel	Ms Janet Agar (New Zealand) Dr Christine Bradley (Papua New Guinea) Ms Patricia Jalal (Fiji)

WORKSHOP (6) - AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY - WEDNESDAY, 21 SEPTEMBER

Chair	Mrs Marieta Rigamoto (Fiji)
Panel	Mrs Ruth Liloqula (Solomon Islands) Mrs Kesaia Tubunakawai (Fiji) Mr Franco Matariki (SPC)

WORKSHOP (7) - THE ROLE OF WOMEN'S ORGANISATIONS IN ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION - WEDNESDAY, 21 SEPTEMBER

Chair Mrs Malua Peters (Northern Mariana Islands)

Speaker Ms Neva Wendt (South Pacific Regional Environment Programme)

Panel Dr Jenny Bryant (University of the South Pacific)
Mrs Lois Kesu (Papua New Guinea)

WORKSHOP (8) - NETWORKING AND COMMUNICATION - WEDNESDAY, 21 SEPTEMBER

Chair Mr Walter Thomas, Director for Information, Ministry for Information (Fiji)

Panel Ms Dianne Goodwillie (Canada Fund, Canadian High Commission)
Ms Pamela Thomas (Australia)
Ms Jillette Leon-Guerrero (SPC)

THEME - WOMEN IN EDUCATION - WEDNESDAY, 21 SEPTEMBER

Chair Mrs Esiteri Kamikamica (Fiji)

Keynote Address Mrs Fa'auuga S. Latu Achica (American Samoa)

Response Mrs Luseana Ofa (Tonga)

PLENARY SESSION - WORKSHOP REPORTS - THURSDAY, 22 SEPTEMBER

Chair Mme Hélène Courte, Deputy Director of Programmes (SPC)

1. Pacific Women's Resource Bureau
2. Community Education Training Centre
3. Women's health
4. Appropriate technology
5. Employment and self-employment through income generation
6. Development planning
7. Women and the law
8. Agriculture, fisheries and forestry
9. The role of women's organisation in environmental education
10. Networking and communications

Dinner Hosted by the Minister for Women and Social Welfare,
the Honourable Adi Finau Tabakaucoro (Fiji)

PLENARY SESSION - FRIDAY, 23 SEPTEMBER

Chair The Honourable Adi Finau Tabakaucoro, Minister for Women and Social Welfare (Fiji)

Approval of Recommendations

Action Plan

Summary and Future Directions

CLOSING CEREMONY AND RECEPTION HOSTED BY THE SPC SECRETARY-GENERAL

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IV. SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS

FIRST PLENARY SESSION, SATURDAY, 17 SEPTEMBER

1. The first plenary working session of the Conference was held on the afternoon of 17 September 1988 and was chaired by the Honourable Adi Finau Tabakauoro, Fiji's Minister for Women and Social Welfare.
2. An opening prayer was delivered by Sister Juliana Perez of Tokelau.

ITEM 1 - ADOPTION OF AGENDA

3. The Conference adopted the proposed Agenda, with the following amendments:
 - Dr Scanlan of American Samoa (who was unable to attend) to be replaced as panelist for the Monday plenary session by the Honourable Fiame Naomi Mata'afa of Western Samoa;
 - Mrs Mere Betham of American Samoa (who was also unable to attend) to be replaced as keynote speaker on the theme 'Women in Education' by Mrs Fa'auuga S. Lutu Achica of American Samoa;
 - Following a suggestion by the Representative of Fiji, representatives from other delegations to be chosen to chair the evening session on 'Pacific Women: Challenge to Change' on 19 September and the workshop on 'The Role of Women's Organisations in Environmental Education' on 21 September.

ITEM 2 - RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE 1985 CONFERENCE

4. The Conference received the report of the Joint Regional Meeting of Government Representatives and Representatives of Non-Government Organisations on Women's Affairs in the Pacific, held in 1985.
5. The Conference agreed to discuss this Item in conjunction with the plenary session on 'New Directions for Pacific Women's Resource Bureau and the Community Education Training Centre', to be held on Monday, 19 September.
6. Following a query from the Representative of Western Samoa on one of the recommendations, the Representative of the Pacific Women's Resource Bureau and the Representative of Fiji explained that members of the Association of Pacific Women's Non-Government Organisations had limited their activities to exchange of information, because of lack of funds.

ITEM 3 - GENERAL BUSINESS

a) Planning for future Conferences

7. The Conference discussed ways in which planning for future Women's Conferences could be improved.

8. Several Representatives noted that most sessions of the present Conference would be chaired by Representatives of Fiji and inquired how Chairpersons for the Conference had been selected.

9. The Representative of Fiji explained that although the South Pacific Commission (SPC) had invited all member countries, very few had attended the planning meeting. Some of the people selected as Chairpersons had been unable to attend, therefore in view of cost consideration people from Fiji were selected to replace them. Other Fiji nationals in the programme also represented regional organisations or institutions.

10. The Conference noted suggestions by the Representatives of Western Samoa and Vanuatu that for future Conferences, the position of Chairperson might be rotated between different countries.

11. The Conference supported a suggestion by the Representative of Niue that in future, the planning committee circulate information regarding the programme well in advance, to allow comments and proposals for changes to be made in good time.

12. The Representative of Fiji described difficulties that her Government had faced in organising the present Conference. There was a delay between the planning meeting (held in March) and the official request from SPC for Fiji to host the Conference, which was received at the end of July and approved by the Government of Fiji in August. More regular consultation of the host Government by SPC would have minimised problems faced by the host. The planning committee's recommendations had not been fully considered by SPC during programme planning.

b) Appointment of Drafting Committee

13. The Conference appointed a Drafting Committee consisting of the Representatives of Cook Islands, Fiji, French Polynesia, New Zealand, Niue, Tonga, Wallis and Futuna and Western Samoa.

c) Introduction of Representatives

14. At the request of the Chairperson, Representatives introduced themselves.

d) Apology

15. The Representative of the Pacific Women's Resource Bureau delivered an apology on behalf of the SPC Deputy Director of Programmes, Mme Hélène Courte, who was unable to join the Conference until 20 September.

SECOND PLENARY SESSION, MONDAY, 19 SEPTEMBER**THEME: NEW DIRECTIONS FOR:**

A) PACIFIC WOMEN'S RESOURCE BUREAU, SPC (PWRB)

B) COMMUNITY EDUCATION TRAINING CENTRE (CETC)

Chair Mrs Lavenia Kaurasi (Fiji)

Speakers Mrs Louise Aitsi-McMahon (SPC)
 Mrs Lili King (CETC)
 Mme Marie-Claire Beccalossi (New Caledonia)
 Hon Fiamé Naomi Mata'afa (Western Samoa)
 Mrs Tinai Hancock (Baha'i International Community)
 Mme Béatrice Vernaudeau (French Polynesia)
 Mrs Tion Beiabure (Kiribati)
 Sister Juliana Perez (Tokelau)

A. Pacific Women's Resource Bureau

16. Discussions centred on the role of the Pacific Women's Resource Bureau (PWRB), its manpower and resource needs and its role in facilitating regular communication and effective exchange of development ideas between Pacific women.

17. The following documents were submitted on the Bureau's activities, and are attached as Annexes III-VII:

- Information Paper 1: Pacific Women's Resource Bureau - an overview;
- Information Paper 2: Progress in promoting women-oriented programmes;
- Working Paper 1: New directions for the Pacific Women's Resource Bureau;
- Working Paper 2: Report of Planning Meeting for Fourth Regional Women's Conference;
- Working Paper 3: Report on Recommendations from Regional Meeting of Pacific Islands Women's NGOs and Joint Regional Meeting of Government Representatives and Representatives of Non-Government Organisations on Women's Affairs in the Pacific (Rarotonga, Cook Islands, 19-27 March, 1985).

18. The following issues were also discussed:

- According to its mandate, the PWRB has to deal with official channels in order to liaise with all Pacific women.
- There is a need for better communication between Pacific Islands Governments, the PWRB and women at all levels.
- The Bureau needs to be strengthened through adequate staffing and provision of information to direct the services it should provide to women.
- It is essential that Non-Government Organisations (NGOs) liaise with the PWRB, particularly as the PWRB is funded from extra-budgetary sources and not from the regular SPC budget.
- Contact between the women of the region is important and annual sub-regional conferences should be held to facilitate this, in addition to another regional meeting in two years time.
- Women need to brief their countries' representatives to Meetings of the SPC Committee of Representatives of Governments and Administrations, so that their concerns are considered in the SPC decision-making process.
- There should be regular cost-effective evaluation of the Bureau.
- The Bureau should assist in securing funding for women's development programmes at national level.
- NGOs need to be strengthened to effectively carry out their work for women in the region.
- An NGO officer should be located in the Bureau.
- A national NGO co-ordinating body should be formed to provide the contact point for the Bureau and NGOs.
- Each country should contribute to the funding of the PWRB in view of the benefits derived from it, or alternatively, the PWRB should be funded from SPC's regular budget.

Motions adopted

19. The following motions were adopted:

- That the Conference, through SPC, make all conscious efforts to facilitate the formation of Pacific Island countries into sub-regional groups that are similar in physical nature and in size.
- That each sub-regional grouping meet at its discretion and that they be solely responsible for funding their respective meetings.
- That the Bureau carry out the activities proposed in Working Paper 1, Annex V.
- That the Bureau spearhead regular meetings of agencies and donor countries involved in women's programmes, those agencies attending to fund their own participation.
- That PWRB become part of the regular SPC budget.

B. Community Education Training Centre (CETC)

20. The Principal of the CETC outlined the areas covered by the existing training programme, and her concern regarding:

- a) the relevance of the training programme to the needs of the community;
- b) the selection criteria;
- c) the facilities available at the Centre;
- d) availability of job opportunities for the students when they graduate.

21. She also referred to the NGO/Women/Report No 39 stating that 'SPC CETC diversify its programmes to provide condensed, intensive, short-term training courses for women in commerce, business management and administration', and 'that members of the SPC should support the proposal to expand the curriculum of the SPC Community Education Training Centre'.

22. It was also suggested that the Conference make a specific recommendation to Government representatives on the direction of the training offered by the CETC and that representation be made to the Committee of Representatives of Governments and Administrations that a Curriculum Advisory Committee be set up to continuously review the CETC programme to meet the needs of the island community. The full text of Mrs King's speech is appended as Annex VIII.

23. There was a general consensus that the Centre should:
- a) cater for the changing aspirations of women in urban, regional and international contexts, involving a wide cross section of members in the design of the curriculum;
 - b) be evaluated regularly for cost-effectiveness and relevance;
 - c) broaden its curriculum to include the value of womanhood and women's search for their traditional identity;
 - d) design its programmes to support the PWRB, whose programmes should reflect the needs of the women in the region; otherwise the CETC could lose its relevance to some of the member countries.

Motion adopted

24. The Conference adopted the following motion:

- That a CETC Curriculum Advisory Committee be set up to continuously review the CETC Programmes.
- The following countries volunteered to draw up the terms of reference for the CETC Curriculum Advisory Committee:
 - American Samoa
 - French Polynesia
 - Cook Islands
 - Marshall Islands
 - New Zealand
 - Solomon Islands
 - Tokelau
 - Wallis and Futuna
 - Western Samoa.
- The Conference unanimously agreed that Fiji chair the Working Group which volunteered to determine the terms of reference for the CETC Curriculum Advisory Committee.

THIRD PLENARY SESSION, MONDAY, 19 SEPTEMBER**THEME: PACIFIC WOMEN: CHALLENGE TO CHANGE**

Chair Mme Béatrice Vernaudo (French Polynesia)

Key Speaker Mrs Bungtabu Brown (Papua New Guinea)

Response Mrs Marilyn Tahi (Vanuatu)

25. The full text of the keynote address is appended as Annex IX. However, the following issues were highlighted:

- a) Women must work with men to ensure that development is of the right kind and to specify aims and processes that would bring about relevant development.
- b) Women should take the initiative rather than relying on government.
- c) Women must be mobilised to be in decision making positions, as change is initiated by decision makers.
- d) Governments must be committed to giving women opportunities for equal participation.
- e) Women's problems are caused by disparity between women at different levels.

26. The speaker challenged the Conference to consider the different groups of women from village to national level, who were disturbed by change, and to consider what could be done to help them.

TUESDAY, 20 SEPTEMBER, 1988**WORKSHOP 1: WOMEN'S HEALTH**

Chair Dr Jiko Cavu (Fiji)

Speakers Ms Denise DeRoeck (SPC)
Dr Jacqui Badcock (SPC)

Panel Mrs Ngapoko Short (Cook Islands)
Ms Digby Duncan (Australia)
Ms Augusta Rengil (Guam)

27. The following themes were discussed:
- AIDs and sexually transmitted diseases (see Ms DeRoeck's paper at Annex X),
 - Alcohol and drug abuse (see Ms DeRoeck's paper at Annex XI),
 - Women and food and nutrition (see Dr Badcock's paper at Annex XII).
28. The recommendations made by the Workshop can be found on pages 47-51.

WORKSHOP 2: APPROPRIATE TECHNOLOGY

Co-ordinators

Ms Cema Bolabola (Fiji)
Ms Susana Evening (Fiji)

Resource Persons

Mr Taniela Colamoto (CETC)
Adi Sai Tuivanuavou (CETC)
Mr Franco Mateariki (CETC)
Mr Philippe Ricaud-Dussarget (SPC)
Ms Seini Tuiteci (Fiji)
Adi Saurogo Gonelevu (Fiji)

Demonstrators

Staff and Students of CETC
Mr Philippe Ricaud-Dussarget (SPC)
Staff and Students of Methodist Handicraft Training Centre
Nadroga women potters
Women producers of traditional handicrafts
Kalisi George, Craftswoman of the Year (Fiji)

Demonstrations

A. Utilities

- home made sink
- smokeless stove
- water jar
- drum oven

B. Food preservation

- fruits and vegetables

- C. *Solar energy*
- the installation and operation of solar energy
- D. *Handicrafts*
- pottery containers
 - jewellery made from seeds
 - tapa stencilling
 - weaving of pandanus.
29. The following points were raised:
- Selection of trainees for CETC, who should be guaranteed to use their knowledge on their return home and impart it to the rural areas;
 - The need for proper marketing facilities for products made by women;
 - Definition of appropriate technology (uses available material resources and is adaptable, simple, cheap and convenient);
 - Categories of appropriate technology
 - a) socially appropriate technology (improves quality of life at domestic level);
 - b) productive appropriate technology (creates self-employment and supplements cash income);
 - The need to make women more aware of appropriate technology;
 - The need for appropriate technology to preserve food, obtain clean and convenient water, provide cheap energy, and improve environmental health;
 - Transfer of appropriate technology through conducting of in-country workshops by SPC, identification of traditional technology, dissemination of information in local languages, and establishment of national programmes;
 - The need for constant evaluation and assessment at all levels;
 - Co-ordination of data collection
30. The recommendations made by the Workshop can be found on pages 52-53.

WORKSHOP 3: EMPLOYMENT AND SELF-EMPLOYMENT THROUGH INCOME GENERATION

Chair	Mrs Mere Samisoni, Businesswoman (Fiji)
Speakers	Ms Christine Cornwell (Director, ILO South Pacific Office)
Panel	Mrs Pamela Pryor (South Pacific Bureau for Economic Co-operation) Mrs Bungtabu Brown (Papua New Guinea) Mrs Seniloli Sovea (Fiji)

31. The following points were discussed:

- The traditional definition of employment as 'work for pay'.
- The value of:
 - (a) self employment in income generating activities in the informal sector, as a supplement to the family income;
 - (b) the work done by women in the home and the need for recognition of this value through the inclusion of these activities in national employment statistics;
- the need to bring to the income-generating activities of the informal sector a system of legality that does not neutralise those activities;
- the necessity to develop women's skills on finance, through networking, training and counselling;
- the necessity for employers to address adequately the needs of women;
- the lack of sympathy, difficulties in gaining access to credit, and discriminatory attitudes towards women entering business;
- success in business comes out of self-confidence, initiative and perfection;
- the need to promote indigenous participation in the business sector.

32. The main problems encountered by the participants were those arising from:

- i) lack of management expertise and limited business skills;
- ii) the failure to control or exploit community relationships;
- iii) lack of sufficient financial resources;
- iv) limited marketing skills.

33. The Workshop recommendations can be found on pages 53-55.

WORKSHOP 4: DEVELOPMENT PLANNING

Chair Mrs Margaret Nakikus (Papua New Guinea)

Speaker Dr Heather Booth (SPC)

Panel Ms Fanaura Kingstone (ESCAP - Vanuatu)
 Adi Eci Kikau (Fiji)
 Ms Luseane Ofa (Tonga)

34. The Chairperson opened the session by emphasising the low priority given to women by development planners.

35. Dr Heather Booth spoke of the forward looking strategy produced by the Nairobi Women's Conference and the need to involve women in mainstream development. She underlined the need for the importance of women's existing roles to be recognised and for women to receive equal opportunities in education and employment.

36. Dr Booth described three UNIFEM missions on women's projects in the Pacific. She had participated in the latest of these, which found that human resource planning in the region was weak and that women were disadvantaged economically and educationally. The mission formulated a regional 'umbrella' project to promote women's role in development. A project on socio-economic statistics on women is also proposed.

37. Dr Booth concluded by outlining the mission's proposal for a two year UNDP project, to concentrate on four pilot countries, under which a Women in Development Pacific Planning Team would provide assistance to national planning offices in including women in mainstream development plans and assist Government and NGO women leaders to improve their management and communication skills in order to enable them to participate in and monitor the planning process with regard to women.

38. Ms Kingstone outlined the development planning process, the role played by women at various levels of planning, the type of need which planning should address, and the cultural factors which impede women's participation in planning.

39. Adi Eci Kikau emphasised the importance of recognising women's existing roles in development planning; women should initiate this.

40. Mrs Ofa, as a Government officer, felt that the development of women should not be differentiated from that of the whole community. The problem was to obtain a response from the women. She also emphasised that regional and international organisations should be sensitive to cultural issues.

41. The Workshop then divided into working groups which considered three main questions:

- lack of recognition of the existing role of women and ways of overcoming this;
- weakness or lack of national planning machinery and ways in which women can make representations at the planning level;
- cultural attitudes to women's development and ways in which these can be changed (e.g. education, both formal and non-formal).

42. Among the points discussed by the working groups were:

- the need for women to actively ensure that relevant statistical and other information is collected, analysed and used;
- the need for increased communications skills within women's organisations;
- the need for informal adult education at the village level to change attitudes that prevent women's advancement;
- the need for assistance in project planning and formulation;
- the need for better co-ordination between Governments and women's NGOs;
- definition of women's existing roles at domestic, community, paid employment and policy making levels;
- ways in which planning machinery could be strengthened, receive input from and communicate with all levels of the community;
- cultural attitudes affecting women's participation in development.

43. The Workshop recommendations can be found on pages 55-56.

FOURTH PLENARY SESSION, TUESDAY 20 SEPTEMBER 1988**THEME: WOMEN AS DECISION-MAKERS**

Chair Adi Mei Kainona Gauna (Fiji)

Key Speakers Dr Louise Morauta (Australian International Development Assistance Bureau)

Response Ms Hilda Kari (Solomon Islands)

44. Dr Morauta's address is appended at Annex XIII and Ms Kari's address at Annex XIV.
45. The following points were mentioned during the discussion of women as decision-makers:
- problems experienced in dealing with male expatriate counterparts;
 - co-operation between men and women as equal partners in decision-making;
 - friction between women, who try to 'put down' women decision-makers;
 - the need for aid agencies to make decisions which correspond to women's own decisions;
 - the need for women decision-makers to keep in touch with reality;
 - the ways in which aid agencies decide funding guidelines.

WEDNESDAY - 21 SEPTEMBER**WORKSHOP 5: WOMEN AND THE LAW**

Chair Magistrate Vusega Helu (Fiji)

Speaker Judge Janet Weeks (Guam)

Panel Ms Janet Agar (New Zealand)
 Dr Christine Bradley (Papua New Guinea)
 Ms Patricia Jalal (Fiji)

46. The text of Judge Weeks' address is appended as Annex XV.

47. Ms Janet Agar, Mediation Officer with the New Zealand Human Rights Commission in New Zealand, outlined the position of women lawyers in New Zealand. She said that domestic violence and rape appeared to be on the increase. She described the main New Zealand laws which are of interest to women, particularly those relating to discrimination of various kinds.

48. Dr Christine Bradley spoke on women's need for education on their legal rights and described what has recently been done in this field in Papua New Guinea.

49. The third panelist, Ms Patricia Jalal, a Fiji lawyer working in the Family Law Courts, explained that she was working on an anti-rape campaign; rape cases had increased markedly. She said that because of the work of the Women's Crisis Centre, there was better awareness of domestic violence.

50. Problems related to domestic violence included cultural factors and inexperience of police prosecutors; there was a need for education, to change attitudes to this problem among both men and women.

51. Ms Jalal explained that laws in Fiji and other Pacific countries were still mainly British laws and tended to be less progressive and more discriminatory towards women than the American-based laws of Guam outlined by Justice Weeks.

52. During the discussion, the following points were raised:

- the main forms of violence towards women in the Pacific;
- the apparent increase in violence towards women, which may be on the increase in real terms or may reflect increased reporting of violence;
- cultural and male attitudes towards domestic violence;
- failure in communication between married and *de facto* partners as a cause of domestic violence;
- divorce laws and problems, including property settlement, custody of children, and the need for mediation and counselling;
- rape;
- incest, which appears to be common in the region;
- the role of Christianity in solving marital problem;
- the role of the law in setting norms;
- cultural barriers to the use of laws.

53. The Workshop then discussed and made recommendations on anti-discrimination laws and sexual harassment, domestic violence, and rape and child abuse. The recommendations can be found on pages 56-59.

WORKSHOP 6: AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY

Chair Mrs Marieta Rigamoto (Fiji)

Panel Mrs Ruth Liloqula (Solomon Islands)
Mrs Kesaia Tabunakawai (Fiji)
Mr Franco Mateariki (SPC)

54. Mrs Liloqula's address is appended as Annex XVI.
55. Mrs Kesaia Tabunakawai spoke on the history and functions of the Ministry of Forests in Fiji.
56. Mr Franco Mateariki's presentation focused on women's involvement in the decision-making process and development planning.
57. The Chairperson requested Ms Veikila Vakamoce of Fiji to speak on Fiji women's involvement in fisheries, the Fisheries Department's training programme for rural fisherwomen and how the programme is executed. Women learn fishing techniques and related skills in the maintenance of their fishing gear.
58. The Workshop recommendations can be found on pages 59-62.

WORKSHOP 7: THE ROLE OF WOMEN'S ORGANISATIONS IN ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

Chair Ms Malua Peters (Northern Mariana Islands)

Speaker Ms Neva Wendt (South Pacific Regional Environment Programme - SPREP)

Panel Dr Jenny Bryant (University of the South Pacific)
Mrs Lois Kesu (Papua New Guinea)

59. Ms Wendt's address is appended as Annex XVII.
60. Dr Bryant spoke on the South Pacific Action Committee for Human Ecology and the Environment (SPACHEE). She described SPACHEE's background, objectives and strategies.
61. Dr Bryant concluded that women's organisations are ideal for educating the public on preservation of soil and forests and taking care of the environment. Women have a big role to play in making development planners and Government leaders aware of the many hazards brought about by pollution of the environment, logging and mining.

62. Mrs Lois Kesu outlined the type of environmental education activities undertaken by both the formal and non-formal education sectors in Papua New Guinea. She specifically alerted participants to the problems associated with pesticide use and described practical activities and precautions women could undertake to lessen the harmful effects of the more dangerous pesticides.

63. The Workshop recommendations can be found on pages 62-65.

WORKSHOP 8: NETWORKING AND COMMUNICATIONS

Chair Mr Walter Thomas (Fiji)

Panel Ms Dianne Goodwillie (Canada Fund of Canadian High Commission)
Ms Pamela Thomas (Australia)
Ms Jillette Leon-Guerrero (SPC)

64. Ms Pamela Thomas spoke on the theme 'Good communications: a challenge to women'. She drew attention to:

- a) The negative impact of television and video on cultural stability;
- b) Strategies for beneficial changes, including the need for women to:
 - know what the changes are,
 - understand why they are being made,
 - understand the benefits from these changes,
 - know how to go about it,
 - know how are they in a position to make the change;
- c) Some major communication problems, including;
 - communication requirements in women's projects being ignored or forgotten at the planning stage e.g. no budget, no resources, lack of communication training, etc.,
 - information going to the wrong people,
 - inappropriate information (too complicated, culturally insensitive or boring),
 - not enough information/no motivation,
 - information being misunderstood or misinterpreted;
 - inappropriate communication channels being used,
 - low status of 'communicators';

d) Suggested guidelines as follows;

- have clear priorities about the changes one wants,
- know one's target audience,
- know the media available and what is appropriate for one,
- know what will motivate/encourage one to act.

65. Ms Dianne Goodwillie spoke on networking and women's issues. She stressed the need to collect and share information about and among women through radio, newsletters, satellite services etc.

66. Discussing the media, Ms Goodwillie mentioned their portrayal of women, their wide influence, and the need to train women in journalism and to make effective use of existing media training centres.

67. Ms Jillette Leon-Guerrero of the SPC Women's Bureau spoke on the needs, problems and suggestions of the Bureau. She emphasised that communication is a two-way process; she must receive information from the women's organisations before she can disseminate it.

68. Points raised in discussion included:

- late or non-arrival of information (often because it was not sent direct to end recipients);
- newsletter production;
- making and using videos;
- communications in groups and between organisations;
- writing skills;
- multimedia campaigns;
- posters;
- use of radio.

69. Problems and solutions identified by the Workshop are appended as Annex XVIII.

70. The Workshop recommendations can be found on pages 65-67.

FIFTH PLENARY SESSION, WEDNESDAY 21 SEPTEMBER

THEME: 'WOMEN IN EDUCATION'

Chair Mrs E. Kamikamica (Fiji)

Speaker Mrs F. L. Achica (American Samoa)

Response Mrs L. Ofa (Tonga)

71. The full text of Mrs Achica's address is appended as Annex XIX.

72. Mrs Ofa concurred with Mrs Achica that there seemed to be a gap in the middle level of education, as a study had shown. Further, she felt that there was a lot of room for change and that women needed to change their dreams if their children could not aspire to what parents wanted of them.

73. Mrs Ofa stressed that aims and objectives should be very clear, there should be easy access to resources, and that education should be evaluated for relevance and acceptability.

74. Points raised in discussion included:

- the need for compulsory education to ensure equal access and opportunity;
- the need to adapt educational systems and curricula to children's environment and culture;
- the need for parents to be supportive and to develop their children's potential to the maximum.

SIXTH PLENARY SESSION, FRIDAY 23 SEPTEMBER

Chair

Morning: Mme Hélène Courte (Deputy Director of Programmes, SPC)

Afternoon: The Honourable Adi Finau Tabakaucoro
(Minister for Women and Social Welfare, Fiji).

ITEM 1: APPROVAL OF RECOMMENDATIONS

75. The Conference noted and approved the Report of the Plenary Sessions held on 17, 19, 20 and 21 September and of the eight workshops held on 20 and 21 September.

76. During discussions of the Workshop on Appropriate Technology the Conference heard an explanation by Mme Hélène Courte, SPC Deputy Director of Programmes, of the three EC-sponsored energy projects planned for the region.

77. After discussing the report of the Workshop on Law, the Conference noted a suggestion by the Representative of Vanuatu that the planning committees for future Conferences consider topics relating to women and the law in non-domestic areas (e.g. employment, education), and that speakers on these topics be informed well in advance.

78. The Conference then considered and adopted the recommendations of the *ad hoc* meeting to draw up terms of reference for the CETC Curriculum Advisory Committee. These are appended as Annex XX.

79. The Conference then adopted the following **recommendations**, which are listed in order of priority:

- (1) That Governments, inter-government organisations, NGOs, the SPC, the Pacific Women's Resource Bureau and women at all levels make positive and energetic efforts to ensure the swift and effective implementation of the recommendations made by this Conference.
- (2) That the work of the Pacific Women's Resource Bureau be given high priority in SPC's list of concerns and full funding for the Bureau be included in SPC's regular budget.
- (3) That SPC's decision making bodies authorise the Pacific Women's Resource Bureau to have direct contact with non-government organisations.
- (4) That governments and regional organisations promote the participation of women in mainstream development through the incorporation of women in national development planning and the provision of relevant data on women.
- (5) That all possible measures be taken by Governments, NGOs, the Pacific Women's Resource Bureau and women at all levels to strengthen the communications links between them and that SPC member governments provide the necessary support.
- (6) That each government should have a department responsible for women's affairs, with budgetary support, and maintain a desk within that department to deal with matters related to NGOs and international affairs, including the South Pacific Commission.

ITEM 2: ACTION PLAN

80. The Conference adopted the following Action Plan:

What you can do

Implement the recommendations of this Conference by:

- (a) Briefing your minister responsible for women's affairs on the outcome of this meeting;
- (b) Making sure that your government representative to the Committee of Representatives of Governments and Administrations in May in Noumea is briefed on the outcome of this Conference and what he should do or say when the Committee discusses the report;

- (c) Informing NGOs and women of all levels in your country of the recommendations and suggesting ways in which they might help to implement them.

ITEM 3: FUTURE DIRECTIONS

81. The Conference recommended acceptance of an offer by Guam to host the Fifth Regional Conference of Women in two years' time, and noted with appreciation offers by New Caledonia and the Marshall Islands to host the Conference if Guam should be unable to do so.

82. The SPC Deputy Director of Programmes clarified SPC's role in relation to women's conferences, which is limited to finding funds and assisting in the organisation.

83. The Conference recommended that the planning committee for the next Conference consist of:

- Guam (Chair and Micronesian representative)
- Fiji (Melanesian representative)
- New Caledonia (representing francophone territories)
- Tokelau (representing Polynesia).

OTHER BUSINESS

84. The NGO Representative of Vanuatu presented the report of the meeting of NGOs held during the Conference period. This is attached as Annex XXI.

85. Sister Juliana Perez of Tokelau delivered a closing prayer.

CLOSING CEREMONY

86. During the closing ceremony, Adi Lady Lala Mara presented the South Pacific Community Workers Awards granted to three outstanding ex-CETC students:

- Sereima Delana of Fiji
- Rolenas Lolo of Vanuatu
- Lote Naseri of Western Samoa, whose award was accepted on her behalf by Faatonu Faletese.

V. RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations were made and adopted in Plenary Sessions of the Conference:

A. BY SECOND PLENARY SESSION

The second Plenary Session of the Conference made the following recommendations:

Recommendation No. 1

That the Conference, through SPC, make all conscious efforts to facilitate the formation of Pacific Island countries into sub-regional groups that are similar in physical nature and in size.

Recommendation No. 2

That each sub-regional grouping meet at its discretion and that they be solely responsible for funding their respective meetings.

Recommendation No. 3

That the Bureau carry out the activities proposed in Working Paper 1, Annex V.

Recommendation No. 4

That the Bureau spearhead regular meetings of agencies and donor countries involved in women's programmes, those agencies attending to fund their own participation.

Recommendation No. 5

That a CETC Curriculum Advisory Committee be set up to continuously review the CETC Programmes.

B. BY FINAL PLENARY SESSION

The Final Plenary Session of the Conference made the following recommendations, which are in order of priority:

Recommendation No. 6

That Governments, inter-government organisations, non-government organisations, the SPC, the Pacific Women's Resource Bureau and women at all levels make positive and energetic efforts to ensure the swift and effective implementation of the recommendations made by this Conference.

Recommendation No. 7

That the work of the Pacific Women's Resource Bureau be given high priority in SPC's list of concerns and full funding for the Bureau be included in SPC's regular budget.

Recommendation No. 8

That SPC's decision making bodies authorise the Pacific Women's Resource Bureau to have direct contact with non-government organisations.

Recommendation No. 9

That governments and regional organisations promote the participation of women in mainstream development through the incorporation of women in national development planning and the provision of relevant data on women.

Recommendation No. 10

That all possible measures be taken by Governments, non-government organisations, the Pacific Women's Resource Bureau and women at all levels to strengthen the communications links between them and that SPC member governments provide the necessary support.

Recommendation No. 11

That each government should have a department responsible for women's affairs, with budgetary support, and maintain a desk within that department to deal with matters related to non-government organisations and international affairs, including the South Pacific Commission.

Recommendation No. 12

That an offer by Guam to host the Fifth Regional Conference of Women in two years' time be accepted; the Conference noted with appreciation offers by New Caledonia and the Marshall Islands to host the Conference if Guam should be unable to do so.

Recommendation No. 13

That the planning Committee for the next Conference consist of:

- Guam (Chair and Micronesian representative)
- Fiji (Melanesian representative)
- New Caledonia (representing francophone territories)
- Tokelau (representing Polynesia).

C. BY WORKSHOPS

The eight Workshops proposed, and the final Plenary Session of the Conference adopted the following recommendations:

Workshop 1: Women's Health*1. Prevention of AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases:***Recommendation No. 1**

That SPC organise, in collaboration with other regional agencies, training courses for health and laboratory personnel so that accurate testing for the AIDS virus is available in each member country.

Recommendation No. 2

That SPC solicit funding and co-ordinate distribution of AIDS blood testing kits for member countries.

Recommendation No. 3

That SPC co-ordinate or organise regional and sub-regional training courses for adequate and humane care and treatment of AIDS-infected individuals.

Recommendation No. 4

That SPC co-ordinate and seek funding for a wide distribution of existing audio-visual AIDS/STDs education materials developed specifically for the Pacific island region (e.g. video tapes produced by Family Planning Federation of Australia).

Recommendation No. 5

That SPC assist in the development of AIDS/STDs components of health or science curricula for primary and secondary schools.

Recommendation No. 6

That SPC assist in the development and dissemination of culturally appropriate educational materials specifically on AIDS and STDs for schools and communities.

Recommendation No. 7

That women's organisations, in their AIDS/STDs educational activities, focus on non-discrimination towards AIDS-infected individuals, e.g. in schools, the workplace, housing and in formulating insurance policies.

2. *Alcohol and drug abuse*

Recommendation No. 8

The establishment of counselling services through churches, women's groups and other community organisations, that incorporate:

- research for targeting problem population;
- continual home visitation within the community;
- motivational programmes to assist abusers to stop abusing drugs and alcohol.

Recommendation No. 9

That community groups, including women's organisations, initiate alcohol-free community activities, i.e. barbecues, meetings, feasts, sporting events.

Recommendation No. 10

That SPC assist in the development and dissemination of culturally appropriate alcohol and drug abuse information and educational materials such as:

- audio-visual aids;
- pamphlets;
- charts;
- posters;

at community level.

Recommendation No. 11

That parents be provided with assistance to teach their young children about the dangers of alcohol and drug abuse.

Recommendation No. 12

That educational programmes in schools be reviewed to integrate culturally appropriate alcohol and drug abuse curricula at all levels.

Recommendation No. 13

That women's organisations lobby churches, community, government, and non-government organisations and institutions to co-ordinate their activities and programmes for health education, including the prevention of alcohol and drug abuse.

Recommendation No. 14

That youths be encouraged to participate in the planning of activities and programmes that deal with alcohol and drug abuse.

Recommendation No. 15

That SPC be requested to establish an alcohol and drug abuse rehabilitation centre for the South Pacific to rehabilitate alcoholics and drug abusers.

3. Food and Nutrition**Recommendation No. 16**

That expansion of current community nutrition and health education activities at regional and national levels be continued to ensure all age groups of the population are reached through:

- activities such as essay and poster competitions, youth health clubs etc.;
- Inclusion of health, nutrition and agriculture activities in the curriculum at pre-school, primary and secondary levels.

Recommendation No. 17

That efforts to increase the availability, production and uses of local Pacific foods be expanded.

Activities should address the need to:

- continue to promote home gardening activities;

- increase local food production, including the improvement of the marketing and post-harvest handling of local foods to supply urban and rural areas at affordable prices;
- increase research activities, diversify cooking methods and promote the preservation and simple processing of local foods.

Recommendation No. 18

That SPC continue to strengthen its current activities in the analysis of Pacific Island foods and give priority to funding the Pacific Island Food Composition Programme. It should give particular attention to atoll foods, Pacific wild bush foods and local green leafy vegetables. Information should be disseminated widely, especially to women's groups active in community education, schools, health and agricultural workers etc.

Recommendation No. 19

Reaffirming support for SPC's current nutrition programme activities, that activities be continued, in particular in:

- training, especially through CETC programmes and the South Pacific Community Nutrition Training Project;
- public and community education programmes and production of nutrition and health education materials;
- breast feeding promotion and maternal and child nutrition programmes;
- food and nutrition policy development;
- food and nutrition information and clearing house services;
- food composition programmes;
- school health and nutrition education.

Recommendation No. 20

That women's organisations and groups assist parents to teach their young children about the importance of good nutrition using local foods.

Workshop 2: Appropriate Technology

Recommendation No. 1

That the Pacific Women's Resource Bureau, statutory bodies, SPC and Government have joint responsibility in promoting appropriate technology instead of working in isolation.

Recommendation No. 2

That the Pacific Women's Resource Bureau be responsible for disseminating information on appropriate technology.

Recommendation No. 3

That CETC, as well as providing basic training in appropriate technology, also train trainers.

Recommendation No. 4

That the Pacific Women's Resource Bureau collaborate with other regional and national institutions to:

- collect and disseminate information on available appropriate technology suitable for Pacific women;
- support research to facilitate work on appropriate technology for women;
- establish closer working relationship with CETC, and support in-country workshops for CETC graduates to conduct appropriate technology works;
- assist women's NGOs in appropriate technology workshops with CETC graduates;
- support the setting up of country appropriate technology centres for women at other administrative levels;
- set up an exchange programme for Pacific women working in appropriate technology

Recommendation No. 5

That the CETC be given support for more work and training in appropriate technology geared towards women and also be given support for in-country workshops by its students and staff.

Recommendation No. 6

That governments be approached to adopt a policy on appropriate technology for women, formulate related programmes for implementation, and support NGOs working in the area of appropriate technology.

Recommendation No. 7

That SPC inform the South Pacific Forum in Nuku'alofa that countries support the promotion of appropriate technology for women with relevant policies and programmes.

Recommendation No. 8

That the EC programme of the SPC Noumea-based Solar Energy Unit be extended to other SPC countries rather than limiting itself to the three French territories in the region.

Recommendation No. 9

That women's NGOs receive support from SPC, national governments and other agencies, to enable them to disseminate appropriate technology to the majority of women, especially those in rural areas.

Workshop 3: Employment and Self-Employment through Income Generation**Recommendation No. 1**

That women and men be given equal access and opportunity to:

- all wage employment;
- management training skills;
- all rural institutions, services, financial bodies and extension services in agriculture which support the small scale and subsistence sector.

Recommendation No. 2

That the merit principle be taken into consideration in the private and public sectors.

Recommendation No. 3

That governments be requested to introduce conscious policies to encourage small industries suitable for women at home or small groups and that these include measures which give women access to credit and include marketing and distribution facilities as an integral part of the policies.

Recommendation No. 4

That the data collection agencies (especially the statistics offices of governments in the region) ensure that data on employment are broken down by sex and occupation.

Recommendation No. 5

That the same agencies ensure that women in the rural sector be identified as producers and recognised as 'economically active'.

Recommendation No. 6

That special incentives be provided to women in newly established business ventures.

Recommendation No. 7

That governments provide opportunities for the development of small business income generation in the informal sector.

Recommendation No. 8

That governments find ways to implement some system of social protection and particularly guarantee an allowance for employed women on maternity leave.

Recommendation No. 9

That training opportunities in business management and administration be available to women entrepreneurs.

Recommendation No. 10

That women in business be encouraged to become more involved in local Chambers of Commerce.

Workshop 4: Development Planning**Recommendation No. 1**

That the Pacific Women's Resource Bureau assist in strengthening the links between women's NGOs and Government officers responsible for women's affairs in order to enhance women's participation in and contribution to development.

Recommendation No. 2

That governments ensure that their national planning machinery incorporate a special unit with a mandate to consult with women at all levels and respond to women's needs and concerns.

Recommendation No. 3

That governments be encouraged to promote collection, understanding and use of socio-economic statistics on women and to seek assistance to carry out appropriate training programmes on this topic as required.

Recommendation No. 4

That governments and women's organisations promote positive attitudes towards women's participation in development wherever possible through informal community education programmes.

Recommendation No. 5

That governments and regional organisations provide training and assistance to women in project formulation and management.

Workshop 5: Women and the Law*1. Anti-discrimination laws and sexual harassment***Recommendation No. 1**

That Governments introduce machinery which will involve input by women of all levels at all stages of the legislative drafting process.

Recommendation No. 2

That where it does not yet exist, Governments introduce legislation forbidding all forms of discrimination, particularly sexual discrimination.

Recommendation No. 3

That where it does not yet exist, Governments introduce the following legislation:

- Minimum Wages Legislation;
- Employment Legislation, covering minimum standards for conditions of employment, including health and safety. Women should be widely consulted during the drafting of this legislation and appropriate machinery should be established to enforce it.

Recommendation No. 4

That Governments and NGOs take all possible measures to give women access to and understanding of laws and legal processes, particularly those relevant to women's interests and problems. This should be done through both formal and non-formal education programmes, conducted in languages understood by women of all educational levels and of all cultures.

2. Domestic Violence

Recommendation No. 5

That systematic preparation and guidance be provided for couples before marriage and that Governments, churches and women's groups provide more counselling and support for couples during marriage. Counselling for violent offenders should also be introduced, to assist them to take responsibility for their violence and begin to change their behaviour.

Recommendation No. 6

That Governments of all member countries review their laws and legal systems to ensure that victims of domestic violence can receive legal protection.

Recommendation No. 7

That women's groups themselves immediately initiate awareness programmes to inform the public of the harm caused by domestic violence and to challenge the acceptance of domestic violence, using all available channels, and that each member country identify an organisation or body to co-ordinate this domestic violence awareness work.

Recommendation No. 8

That training of relevant workers, both government and non-government, including, but not limited to, police, legal professionals, health workers, social workers, church personnel and probation officers, be revised to provide an understanding of domestic violence issues.

Recommendation No. 9

That curriculum materials on domestic violence be developed for use in primary and secondary schools and teachers be trained in their use and encouraged to take an active stand against domestic violence.

Recommendation No. 10

That women's groups ask churches to formulate a clear statement of their views on the use of violence in marriage, to clarify the concept of the man as head of the family, and to emphasise companionship, communication and equality between partners in marriage.

*C. Rape and child abuse***Recommendation No. 11**

That a central collection point be established to receive and distribute legislation dealing with such things as sentencing for rapists, etc., received from various governments. This central office would respond to requests from organisations and governments and supply them with sample drafts or copies of legislation and assist them in implementing such legislation.

Recommendation No. 12

That it become compulsory for counsellors and supporters to be available to work with rapists and victims and for such counsellors to be with the victim through medical examination, interrogation and court proceedings.

Recommendation No. 13

That women police officers be trained to deal with rape cases and that a woman officer attend all reports of rape.

Recommendation No. 14

That all police officers, men and women, undergo specialised training and work in close collaboration with counsellors.

Recommendation No. 15

That rape be handled as a major crime, alongside such crimes as murder, that the sentence be appropriate for the seriousness of the crime and that rape cases be heard in closed courts.

Recommendation No. 16

That legislation be altered so that the sexual history of victim is not taken into consideration during rape proceedings.

Recommendation No. 17

That incest cases be given first priority and be heard in a closed court.

Recommendation No. 18

That there be more severe penalties for rape if the victim is under 14 years of age than if victim is over 14.

Workshop 6: Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry**Recommendation No. 1**

That SPC, in conjunction with governments and NGOs:

- carry out an awareness campaign on the value of forestry to the public;
- be a clearing house for material that may be used by countries in the region as part of their awareness programme on the need for and importance of forests, agriculture and fisheries.

Recommendation No. 2

That training opportunities in the fields of agriculture, fisheries and forestry be made available to women.

Recommendation No. 3

That forestry, fisheries and agriculture be integrated into the primary and secondary school curricula and that awareness of the beneficial and negative effects of development be highlighted.

Recommendation No. 4

That governments request SPC to develop school curricula and teaching materials on agriculture, fisheries and forestry, in conjunction with other organisations, and ensure that these materials are distributed to member countries.

Recommendation No. 5

That governments implement and/or continue forest conservation programmes and carry out awareness programmes on the problems caused by the removal of forests.

Recommendation No. 6

That governments consider the impact of logging on rural peoples in terms of payment per tree, the selection of woods, impact on the environment and social costs.

Recommendation No. 7

That governments, through the assistance of SPC, seek funds to enable the traditional uses of the forest to be recorded for the purpose of conservation. This programme should include traditional medicines, wild food plants, species most used for house building and canoe building, trees for carvings, trees for firewood and leaves and materials for handicraft production.

Recommendation No. 8

That SPC disseminate information on recycling of organic materials to maintain soil fertility and run in-country programmes for women in villages.

Recommendation No. 9

That SPC, on request, make available to individual countries information on machines for shredding leaves and branches.

Recommendation No. 10

That governments take an integrated approach to agriculture, fisheries, nutrition and health when formulating policies and that in meetings convened to discuss such matters, equal representation of both sexes be ensured.

Recommendation No. 11

That countries with Nutrition and Health Committees share their experience with other countries on request.

Recommendation No. 12

That governments encourage the development of small businesses owned by women for the purpose of sale of surplus agricultural products.

Recommendation No. 13

That governments encourage and seek the assistance of SPC in the establishment of small scale village-based processing facilities for surplus products such as drying of excess fruits.

Recommendation No. 14

That governments request SPC to document and record traditional knowledge and skills in fishing and women's role in fishing.

Recommendation No. 15

That governments request SPC to run in-country training programmes for women in fishing and net mending.

Recommendation No. 16

That CETC diversify its curriculum to provide short-term training courses.

Recommendation No. 17

That governments be requested to introduce conscious policies against pollution.

Recommendation No. 18

That all governments adopt an anti-nuclear waste dumping policy.

Workshop 7: The Role of Women's Organisations in Environmental Education**Recommendation No. 1**

That women be encouraged to work, consult and liaise with existing women's organisations and religious groups to make them aware of environmental issues of concern at local, national and international levels.

Recommendation No. 2

That women's organisations hold village workshops about traditional technologies versus new technologies and their environmental impacts.

Recommendation No. 3

That women's organisations actively lobby their governments to ban all toxic chemicals that do not have specific identification and warning labels.

Recommendation No. 4

That women's organisations actively lobby their governments to introduce adequate legislation to prohibit both the importation of toxic chemicals that are banned elsewhere in the world and the dumping of toxic water.

Recommendation No. 5

That the SPC Women's Programme and the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) work together with women's organisations in a supportive role to undertake environmental education activities.

Recommendation No. 6

That members of women's organisations form lobby groups and pressure their governments to implement a policy firmly stating a non-nuclear stance and to educate members on the detrimental effects nuclear testing has on humanity and the environment.

Recommendation No. 7

That SPC be encouraged to be more flexible in its policy so that it can work more directly with non-government organisations.

Recommendation No. 8

That with land exploitation/development (mining, cash cropping), women's organisations lobby governments to have environmental impact assessments prior to the implementation of such projects, which will include activities that keep environmental balance, and to consult and seek the consent of the local residents.

Recommendation No. 9

That women's organisations promote the use of traditional knowledge of conservation of the environment by creating opportunities through public seminars utilising available local knowledgeable elders.

Recommendation No. 10

That women's organisations be encouraged to promote the recording, revival and retention of old traditional methods and knowledge on biological pest control, herbal medicine, fishing methods and other relevant socio-economic issues on environment and to incorporate the above into the school curriculum and adult training programmes.

Recommendation No. 11

That women's organisations examine ways of recycling waste material for useful purposes.

Recommendation No. 12

That women's organisations work with and encourage government and non-government organisations to develop legislation on environmental control of use of land and sea resources.

Recommendation No. 13

That regional organisations such as SPREP and SPACHEE regularly send out environmental education materials, especially to all women's organisations, non-government organisations, the media and the libraries in the region.

Recommendation No. 14

That the SPC *Women's Newsletter* include information on environmental education.

Recommendation No. 15

That women's organisations use the SPREP and SPACHEE materials for community environmental education by translating them into their own languages for display.

Recommendation No. 16

That women's organisations use the public media for environmental education.

Recommendation No. 17

That women's organisations regularly correspond with SPREP and SPACHEE about environmental issues in their areas.

Recommendation No. 18

That posters and other environmental education materials reflect the role of women as keepers of the environment by including more women in illustrations.

Recommendation No. 19

That women's organisations educate government and non-government organisations about the environmental impacts of tourism on the sand resources, mangroves, coral reefs, land and food crops.

Recommendation No. 20

That women's groups conduct replanting campaigns in order to preserve and rehabilitate important and useful species of trees.

Workshop 8: Networking and Communication**Recommendation No. 1**

That the Pacific Women's Resource Bureau (PWRB) copy to non-government organisations information sent to governments regarding training opportunities, conferences and workshops of the SPC.

Recommendation No. 2

That each country develop its own national communication network in order to ensure that the information disseminated by the PWRB reaches all women.

Recommendation No. 3

As communication is a vital aspect of the PWRB, that additional funding be sought for its communication activities. This should include funding for a professional Director, Assistant Research Officer, purchase of desk top publishing equipment, and funding for printing, production and distribution of the *Women's Newsletter* and other relevant women's programme material.

Recommendation No. 4

Recognising the importance of keeping up-to-date with women's issues in the region, that additional funding be provided to the Communications Officer of the PWRB for telephone, telex, fax in order to adequately collect and disseminate information.

Recommendation No. 5

That training programmes organised by the SPC Media Centre and other institutions be reviewed so that they provide appropriate in-country training in communication skills to women in the region.

Recommendation No. 6

That the SPC organise and convene a meeting of women in media and training institutions to develop women's communication strategy and its implementation.

Recommendation No. 7

That the Pacific Women's Resource Bureau convene a special workshop of representatives of all women's organisations in the region to review and evaluate all women's organisations and activities being promoted by the SPC for the purpose of integrating women in all processes of development.

Recommendation No. 8

That in support of efforts towards development of women, a press clipping exchange for women's groups in the Pacific region be initiated and that the PWRB explore this further.

Recommendation No. 9

That because of need for improvement in exchange of information between the women's groups in countries of the Pacific, women's groups in the Pacific countries obtain access to the University of the South Pacific satellite communication system and that PWRB explore this further with the Director of Extension Services of the University.

Recommendation No. 10

That ways of increasing information and news from the region in women's national radio programmes be investigated.

VI. LIST OF WORKING PAPERS PRESENTED TO THE CONFERENCE

- WP.1 New Directions for the Pacific Women's Resource Bureau
- WP.2 Report of the Planning Meeting for Fourth Regional Women's Conference
- WP.3 Report on Recommendations from Regional Meeting of Pacific Islands Women's NGOs and Joint Regional Meeting of Government Representatives and Representatives of Non-government Organisations on Women's Affairs in the Pacific
- WP.4 Socio-Economic Statistics on Women
- WP.5 Socio-Economic Statistics on Women
- WP.6 Aids and Sexually Transmitted Diseases in the Pacific Islands
- WP.7 Report by French Polynesia on New Directions for the SPC Community Education Training Centre
- WP.8 Report: Tokelau National Women's Association

ANNEXES

**ADDRESS BY THE HONOURABLE AFIGA PULEFA'ASISINA P.M. TUIASOSOPO,
SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE SOUTH PACIFIC COMMISSION**

It might be too impetuous to try to enumerate the merits of women in the Pacific and the reason why the gatherings this morning and for the next several days are very important in the development of the region. I hope that whatever God gives me this morning to say will be sufficient on behalf of the South Pacific Commission and the 27 member governments of the most comprehensive and largest regional organisation.

To underline the value of this week's activities, I thought it would be appropriate to refer to the nature of society in the Pacific Islands. In Melanesia, Polynesia and Micronesia, it is the very diversity of our own existence in our own countries and our own Pacific Island communities, that gives birth to the calmness that has bound the Pacific Islands for many decades in our history. This is evident by the fact that these three major races in the world that occupy the Pacific region are able to be here this morning, in the form of the most valuable resource the region has - its women.

In referring to our societies, I underline the value of women at the very foundation of Pacific Island society - the village and the family. It is that level of our relationships of communal interests that, I believe, underpins the value of women's concerns in this region of the modern world.

The South Pacific Commission, by the very nature of its mandate, is relevant to that area of our concern. It is relevant because it must find its directions from the grassroot level of our island existence, and from the expressions therefrom of the basic needs identified by the clientele we intend to serve, wherein lies the basic value of women in the Pacific. It is also that phenomenon that provides the underpinning principles for the establishment 25 years ago of the Community Education Training Centre - the one institution under the wings of the South Pacific Commission that has directly trained community workers and women in the Pacific. This Conference is given additional relevance by the fact that the gathering is held here in Fiji - the site of that institution.

The theme of this year's Conference is 'Challenge for Change'. If we were to be cynical, we could say that nothing is really new under the sun. But if we were to be cynical, we would miss the point of this morning's gathering. That point is underscored by the very fact that the ceremonies of welcome which officially accepted members of the Conference, and recognised the Community Education Training Centre that has served the women of the Pacific for 25 years, were performed by the young people of our region. It is underscored because it is the young people of the region that we must look to in order to understand and manage the changes that have occurred in the region and will continue to occur if this region intends to take its place among other regions in the world.

I have said that women are the foundation of our societies. Who else do we look to for the development of that foundation, but the women of the Pacific? Perhaps the greatest challenge to the women of the Pacific in the modern world is to hold firm that basic foundation for the region as a whole - to understand the changes that are happening in our islands and to manage those changes. The women of the Pacific must take the torch, must run with it, because if you don't, we have a much higher risk and a higher chance of losing in the race to the future.

We cannot be too conservative, yet we must hold on to what makes us the Pacific. It is the ceremony this morning that has inspired this very thought in my own mind. Each one of us in our own country has our own sense of pride, our own sense of accomplishment and our own brand of development. But it is the very fact that out of diversity is born our calmness that makes this Conference very important. We look forward to the thoughts and ideas that we know will be generated from the Conference of Women - Challenge to Change.

I caution you, however, that in developing your own thinking from your own experiences and discussions, you must continue to bear in mind that if the Pacific Islands are to be developed, they must be developed within the context of their own uniqueness. In that respect, the innovative thinking that is natural to women is a very important tool.

I do not have to tell you that you must remember during the week that whatever subjects and discussions you execute, they must be executed with your Pacific brand of Christianity. Without that, I guarantee that you will lose your Conference and also the very important theme for the modern Pacific - Challenge to Change.

Let me finish by saying - May God bless your Conference.

I salute the Women of the Pacific.

**ADDRESS BY THE HONOURABLE ADI FINAU TABAKAUCORO,
MINISTER FOR WOMEN AND SOCIAL WELFARE**

May I first of all, thank you all very much indeed for the traditional ceremony of welcome which you have just accorded to me this morning. The fact that it has been performed by the young pupils of Fiji makes it much more precious and much more meaningful. Thank you very much indeed.

It is a ceremony that is steeped in tradition and it is with these ceremonies that we in Fiji, since time immemorial, have welcomed visitors not only to our shores, but also to our villages and to our homes. Thank you very much indeed for the honour.

I would also wish to extend on behalf of the Government of Fiji and also the women of Fiji, a very warm welcome to all visitors from abroad. Some of you, I understand, have been here for a couple of days already. I hope that your accommodation has been comfortable. We are not a very rich nation so I hope you have not been expecting anything more luxurious than what you have been provided.

We have a region made up of small island nations with small populations scattered over vast spans of ocean, with obvious implications on the costs of basic infrastructure and services. We are remote and distant from the rest of the world and also from one another. This also has cost implications.

It is said that in terms of natural endowment, our islands have limited natural resources in soils, water, minerals and forests. Experts also tell us that our region has a fragile natural environment vulnerable to extinction by inappropriate methods of exploitation and furthermore, a proneness to natural disasters such as cyclones, etc.

In terms of economic capabilities, our nations are dependent on a narrow range of agricultural products having little influence on the terms of trade in the world. Most of our countries also have balance of payment difficulties due to problems of exports and growing imports, especially food and fuel. We are dependent on foreign companies in industry, banking, insurance, commerce and other sectors. Most of us are dependent on aid and foreign institutions to finance our governments' investment budgets. Skills available are limited, resulting in a high dependence on expatriates for technical and managerial skills. There is also a prevalence of under-employment and unemployment.

As such, it would appear that we have, to put it mildly, quite a few problems. However, our strength lies in our peoples and their rich cultural heritage. That we have survived since time immemorial in this part of the world, which can be both beautiful and harsh, is indicative of our strength and the richness of our cultures.

Although we are remote and distant, we do not any longer exist in isolation. Modern development and technologies link us instantly to other parts of the world. The happenings outside our region intimately influence happenings in our region and often dictate what we may do and what we may not do. The Pacific region will, undoubtedly, be the sphere of action and progress as we move into the threshold of the twenty-first century.

Development, and progress as we wish it, can only happen in a conducive environment, an environment in which political and social stability prevail. As women and equal citizens of this region, it is our responsibility to create and maintain such an environment. If we begin on the premises of equality, then we must also accept equal responsibility for what goes on around us.

As women, we are grateful to the South Pacific Commission for providing us this opportunity to get together - to renew and strengthen old acquaintances and friendships and make new ones. Thank you also for the opportunity to reminisce a little before addressing the serious business of the Conference.

The South Pacific Commission has set before us a very challenging agenda and together with that, a pool of panelists and resource people rich in experience and know-how. I am confident that we will make optimum use of what they have to offer. I must also commend the South Pacific Commission for their selection of such an impressive pool of experts.

We ourselves as participants bring together a wealth of knowledge and experience. Let us therefore use this opportunity not only to discuss the challenges and changes we want, but also make those changes. Let us not discuss ourselves merely as decision-makers - let us make decisions. This could become a Women's Conference on regional issues instead of merely the Fourth Regional Women's Conference.

Thank you for giving me the honour to inaugurate this very important Conference. I wish you all a successful conference and a fruitful one.

PACIFIC WOMEN'S RESOURCE BUREAU: AN OVERVIEW**(Paper presented by the SPC Secretariat)**

The Pacific Women's Resource Bureau began operations in May, 1982 with the appointment of a Women's Programme Development Officer (English), with a French counterpart joining in March 1983.

The history of the Bureau can be divided into two parts: the first up to 1986 when the first Women's Programme Development Officer (English) left, the second after February 1987 when the present Women's Officer (English) took up duties. The position was vacant for over a year. The French Officer was working throughout this time, but the French Programme has always been separate from the English Programme, partly due to language difficulties between the two staff members and partly due to the fact that funding for the two programmes has always been totally separate. The French Officer's position has now been vacant since April, 1988.

HISTORY

The creation of a women's resource bureau for the Pacific was first recommended in 1975 by a Non-Government Women's Conference, with support for this establishment by several subsequent meetings and conferences. The Twentieth South Pacific Conference, held in Papua New Guinea in 1980, endorsed the concept and instructed the Secretary-General to seek external funding for a Seminar of South Pacific Women, to be held in French Polynesia in 1981. This Seminar was to develop a concrete proposal for consideration at the twenty-first South Pacific Conference. These actions followed the demise, in 1978, of the Fiji-based Pacific Women's Resource Centre, which meant that there was no longer any regional women's organisation to express the needs and priorities of Pacific Women.

The Seminar of South Pacific Women recommended, as a priority, the creation of a Pacific Women's Resource Bureau with the following criteria:

Functions

1. To co-ordinate all projects concerning women.
2. To be involved in all planning, implementation and evaluation of all SPC projects.
3. To collect data on women's involvement in public life, social and economic development.
4. To conduct research and study issues that are requested by women in the region.

5. To organise programmes for women to know about their governments' policies which affect their lives, lifestyles and children.
6. To co-ordinate for better leadership training programmes for women at all levels in management, business administration, communication techniques.
7. To co-ordinate research on employment opportunities for women in both the public and private sector in the region in collaboration with other agencies.
8. To develop a register of skilled women in the Pacific.
9. To do research on market facilities.
10. UNDP/SPC Project on the Planning and Implementation of National Women's Programmes should facilitate these activities.

Staffing

1. The minimum staffing requirement of the Bureau is two women from the Pacific region.
2. These positions could be funded from outside sources provided they are employed under the normal SPC recruitment procedures, but it is essential that one should be an Anglophone and one should be a Francophone.
3. An independent evaluation committee should be nominated by the South Pacific Conference to evaluate the activities annually.

Duration

1. The Project should take into account the commencement date of November 1981 of the currently accepted UNDP/SPC Project. However, we note that this is only a Phase I operation and we are concerned about continuity. The Seminar wishes to direct the attention of all interested parties to the need for this to be an ongoing activity.
2. As soon as possible, the Pacific Women's Resource Bureau is to commence its activities, but certainly by February 1982.

The Seminar also recommended six other activities and projects through which existing SPC programmes such as Health, Statistics, Demography, the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme and the Community Education Training Centre might better orient their efforts towards ensuring the contribution of Pacific women to national and regional development programmes and objectives:

- a re-organisation of CETC;
- a Regional Health Survey;
- a Pacific Pre-School Development Project;
- a Socio-Economic Survey on Women;
- the development of specific components of the Regional Environment Programme.

These were seen as activities which could be immediately undertaken by SPC, whether or not the Bureau came into existence, although it was recognised that the Bureau would strengthen the SPC's capacity to implement these projects.

ACTIVITIES OF THE BUREAU (1982-1986)

The first task of the Bureau, after its creation, was to make itself known: known to the women of the Pacific, to the governments and to the various funding and development agencies operating in the region. Much of this was achieved when the Bureau staff were on familiarisation or training visits to various countries. The *Women's Newsletter* was also produced, but due to limited circulation and other constraints the newsletter did not always reach the women to whom it was directed.

The main activity of the Bureau at this time was the implementation of the UNDP/SPC/ESCAP project 'Strengthening of Planning and Implementation of National Women's Programmes in the Pacific', which was funded by the UN Voluntary Fund for the Decade of Women. Phase One was an in-country assessment of national women's programmes and identification of priorities for strengthening these, including the formation of action plans. Phase two involved training, financial and technical assistance and advisory services.

This project was a mixed blessing for the newly formed Resource Bureau. The project had been conceived before the creation of the Bureau and included an ESCAP consultant. The UNDP/SPC/ESCAP project became the reason for the Bureau's existence. Almost all of the Bureau's time and energy went into the support of this project. This was good in that the Bureau, using project funds, was able to make field trips and establish contacts that could not have been done otherwise. However, this dominated the Bureau and interfered with the development of the Bureau's own priorities and activities which were outlined by the South Pacific Women's Seminar in Tahiti in 1981 and later refined at the Suva Meeting. It meant that Point 5, *To organise programmes for women to know about their government's policies which affect their lives, lifestyles and children* and Point 6, *To coordinate for better leadership training programmes for women at all levels in management, business administration, communication techniques* were fulfilled largely to the exclusion of other functions.

During this time the Women's Programme Development Officer (French) did not have access to the UNDP funds but organised her own familiarisation tours to French Polynesia and Wallis and Futuna and ran a training programme in New Caledonia.

A major evaluation of the Women's Bureau was carried out in 1984 by Dorianne Wilson-Smillie. This evaluation concluded that the Women's Bureau had done an excellent job in establishing its visibility and its potential, but much was needed in the way of establishing priorities and directions. The question was raised as to how seriously the Bureau was being taken in the region and by SPC, with special reference to the relatively low level of staff positions.

ACTIVITIES OF THE BUREAU (1987/1988)

The present Women's Programme Development Officer (English) took up the position in February 1987. Because the position had been vacant for the previous year, much of the past momentum had been lost. There was no ongoing programme and no funding whatsoever, except for a salary and this was only committed until June 1987. The *Newsletter* was no longer being published and the information section had not been kept up-to-date. The women and the governments of the region had ceased to consider the Bureau as an active agency. The position of Women's Communication Officer had been funded but was not filled.

Much of 1987 was taken up with re-establishing contacts and seeking funding. By taking advantage of invitations to attend workshops and meetings, it was possible to make visits to many of the countries of the region.

An important boost to the Bureau's importance with the governments of the South Pacific Commission member countries came when the Twenty-seventh South Pacific Conference (Noumea, 10-14 October 1987) noted the '... great need to lobby with governments to encourage them to increase their allocations to women's advancement or to even take it seriously.', and urged the members of the South Pacific Commission to:

- a) place a high priority on women-oriented programmes;
- b) co-operate with the South Pacific Commission to ensure that the activities of the Women's Resource Bureau are effective;
- c) fully co-operate with the South Pacific Commission in the provision of information on women's programmes, including the identification of local needs.

It must be stated, however, that the response from most of the governments of the member countries has to date been very limited. Most exchanges have been initiated by the Women's Bureau even though this contradicts the mandate of SPC to operate only in response to requests from member countries.

This also raises the problem, which has not been resolved, of how the Women's Bureau can co-operate directly with non-government organisations. Strictly speaking contacts with NGOs are limited to invitations to participate in training courses or seminars. In the case of international or regional events the organising agency can send invitations directly but for national organisations planning in-country events, invitations to the Women's Bureau should come through the Foreign Affairs Department of the country involved.

This is a bottleneck which requires attention.

By mid-1988 the situation had greatly improved, albeit on a short term basis. This was largely due to generous grants from the New Zealand government and continued support by the Australian and French Governments.

The Women's Communication Officer position has been taken up by a highly competent woman from Guam, Jillette Leon-Guerrero. She has revised the *Women's Newsletter* on a professional basis and has already collected a wide range of current publications and information. Two long overdue publications, *Working with women: a community development handbook for Pacific women* and *Resource kit for Pacific Women* have now been published and a survey is presently underway to update the latter. Also, a series of posters and a calendar are being prepared and consideration is being given to the production of audio tapes for broadcast over local radio stations.

Unfortunately, while there is adequate money available for the materials presently being considered, the Communications Officer salary is only funded until the end of 1988. Also, the salary level is far below what the present officer, with her qualifications and proven ability, has a right to expect.

Immediate attention needs to be given to locating ongoing funding and to upgrading the level of the Women's Communication Officer position.

The Women's Programme Development Officer (English) was funded for several years by the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Co-operation (CFTC) but this funding ended in June 1988 and, in any case, covered salary only. A New Zealand Government grant plus small amounts left over from previous activities has kept the Bureau functioning. An additional New Zealand Government grant of NZ\$100,000 has been promised, half of which would be for the English Women's Officer position (salary, travel and other expenses) until the end of 1988. The other half of the NZ\$100,000 will be to set up a small projects fund for women.

Immediate attention needs to be given to the locating of funds to support the two positions of Women's Programme Development Officer (English) and Women's Communications Officer beyond the end of 1988. The Women's Programme Development Officer (French) position and programme continues to be funded by the French Government. While the generosity of the French Government is appreciated, the situation of totally separate funding for the French and English programmes tends to emphasise their isolation. Greater efforts must be made to integrate the two programmes and to share resources. The French Women's Officer position has been vacant since the end of May 1988.

Specific activities

In addition to carrying out general consultancy work, the following activities have been undertaken by the Women's Resource Bureau:

- The Women's Resource Bureau, in cooperation with the Canadian University Service Overseas (CUSO) and utilising Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) funds, is conducting an Assessment of Managerial Skills of Women's Bureaux in nine SPC member countries, to be followed by a Management Workshop for heads of government women's bureaux, including NGOs and funding agencies.
- A Regional Conference on Women's Affairs is being held in September with official delegates from SPC member countries plus observers from a wide range of government and non-government agencies and organisations.
- The *Women's Newsletter* is again being published.
- Two resource books have been printed: *Working with women: a community development handbook for Pacific women* and *Resource kit for Pacific Women*. The latter contains a resource listing of funding agencies.
- The Bureau's Resource Library has been upgraded and a resource network is being established with women's organisations worldwide.
- Plans are underway for the production of resource materials such as posters, calendars and a series of audio cassettes for broadcast by local radio stations.
- Information gathering surveys are being instigated.
- A small Projects Fund for women is being established.
- Pilot projects in credit schemes for women in income generating activities have been initiated in Solomon Islands and two provinces (Chimbu and East Sepik) in Papua New Guinea.
- The Mitiaro (Cook Islands) and South Tarawa (Kiribati) Integrated Rural Development Projects both have major inputs by women, mainly in the form of small income generating activities and food production.
- A fish handling and processing course for the women of Papua New Guinea is being jointly planned by staff of the Women's Bureau, and the SPC Fish Handling and Processing Officer and the PNG Women's Affairs Division.
- The French Women's Programme Development Officer has been involved in several village or community level projects and training activities with women's organisations.
- The English Women's Programme Development Officer has attended a number of regional and international workshops and seminars covering topics such as women in education, communication and media, islands development, aid strategy, income generating activities and women's development and training. These meetings presented the opportunity to discuss with national governments and non-government organisations the activities, aspirations and problems of promoting women's development at national and community level.

- Several small scale projects for women have been funded from the South Pacific Commission fund for rural projects. As it becomes more widely recognised that women are the prime movers in rural community development, more and more projects are being submitted by women.

Other South Pacific Commission programmes for women

- *Project on Socio-economic Statistics on Women* (improvement of data collection, by women, to provide more accurate and relevant information for and on women).
- *Women and Child Health and Nutrition* (to reduce death rates and disease in mothers and children, promote breast-feeding, increase women's knowledge of nutritional requirements, promote food gardening).
- *Regional Survey - Health Status of Women* (funded by WHO - Niue and UNFPA - Marshall Islands). The next survey should be organised in 1989 and it is hoped that it will be in a Melanesian country. Solomon Islands has expressed interest.
- *Community Education Training Centre* (core course in health, agriculture, community development and women's affairs; choice of either home economics or food and nutrition, plus specialised short courses on request). The 1988 course began in February with students from SPC member countries.
- The South Pacific Commission Nutritionist has visited on request, several countries, promoting and assisting with the planning and training aspects of in-country nutrition units and related nutrition programmes.
- The Pacific Islands Food Composition Programme began with the appointment of a co-ordinator in late 1987 and presently has training programmes in 8 member countries.

South Pacific Commission programmes relevant to women

- *Food Crops Diversification*: main emphasis is on food crops for home consumption; these are mainly produced and cooked by women.
- *Inshore Fisheries Research Project*: many inshore fisheries (e.g. collection of edible shells, lagoon and estuarine fishing) are carried out by women and it is beginning to be recognised that their contribution in this field has been under-estimated. There is a need for more data collection and better resource management of the marine resources harvested by women.
- *Fishing Training*: Two of the officers attached to the SPC Fisheries Programme for in-service training in data compilation and analysis in 1988 were women: one from Palau, the other from Tuvalu.

- *Other fisheries:* The Community Education Training Centre has expressed interest in including a fisheries component (basic knowledge of resource management, handling and processing techniques) in its courses.
- *South Pacific Regional Environment Programme:* Many of the participants attending training courses in environmental broadcasting have been women; work on deforestation is of indirect interest to women since they are the main collectors of firewood and subsistence gardeners (deforestation means they have to walk further); many of the teachers using SPREP's environmental curriculum materials are women.
- *Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Project:* Women are the main carriers and users of water.
- *Health Education and Nutrition Programme:* These programmes are of particular interest to women: (a) they are the people primarily responsible for health and nutrition at the family level (b) Most of the government staff working in this field are women (dietitians, public health nurses, health educators).
- *Community Health:* Is just as important for women as for men.
- *Statistics and Population:* Numerous women work in national statistics offices both at the senior level and at the lower-middle levels of data collection and data processing. Training for personnel at these levels will therefore benefit women. Particular efforts are being made to invite more participation by women in population training programmes, such as a 3-week course on survey methodology (with special emphasis on household surveys) held in Australia in May 1988.
- *Youth Education:* The SPC Youth Programme works for youth of both sexes, with particular emphasis on uniformed organisations, such as the Girl Guides, and young delinquents.

PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED

The Women's Bureau has operated under severe restrictions during 1987 and 1988. These problems have been solved in the short term but the situation will be critical from the beginning of 1989. These problems relate to staffing, funding and support from governments. The present situation is:

Staffing

- a) The *Women's Programme Development Officer (French)* position has been vacant since the end of May 1988. The previous officer, Marie-Claire Beccalossi, was the first and only person to fill the position. (Her parting paper, *The Women's Resource Bureau, thoughts about its goals and roles* is available).

This position has always been funded by the French Government, with the 1988 grant being CFP 6,000,000, which is adequate. It is anticipated that the French Government will continue to fund this position in the immediate future, although no formal commitment has been received for 1989.

- b) The *Women's Programme Development Officer (English)* position is not secure. When the present officer, Louise Aitsi-McMahon, took up the position in February 1987 there was no funding except for a salary up to June 1987. Due to generous grants from the New Zealand Government, there is now funding for salary, travel and administration (phone, mail, etc.) until the end of 1988. There is no firm commitment of funds beyond that date. It should also be noted that the present Women's Officer (English) has indicated that she will not extend her contract beyond the end of January 1989 when the current contract ends.
- c) The *Women's Communication Officer* position was funded by the Australian International Development Assistance Bureau for a 12 month period. It was originally filled for three months by a bilingual woman; however she proved unsuitable and was terminated. The present officer, Jillette Leon-Guerrero, took up the position in May 1988. There is funding for salary until the end of 1988, plus adequate money to develop resource materials, but no firm commitment of funds beyond 1988, although one government has indicated an interest. It should be noted that the salary for this position is very low and the present officer, who is highly qualified and competent, has indicated that she is not willing to renew under the present employment conditions.
- d) *Assistant Women's Programme Officer.* Previous Women's Conferences have recommended that a position be created for an assistant for the Women's Officers, but to date no action has been taken. The French Women's Officer has only three countries to deal with, but the English Women's Officer has nineteen and with the activities currently being undertaken, the workload is becoming unmanageable and there is every indication that it will increase in 1989. The appointment of a Communications Officer has helped in some regards but her work is in a different field from the Programme Officers and so her success has simply increased the overall workload.

Summary

The Women's Bureau has three positions:

- Women's Programme Development Officer (English)
- Women's Programme Development Officer (French)
- Women's Communications Officer.

All three positions are funded until the end of 1988 with no firm commitment of funds beyond that date. The French Officer position is presently vacant and the other two positions may become vacant at the end of 1988.

Government response

The mandate which requires the South Pacific Commission to respond only to requests from member countries is the second major constraint on the operations of the Women's Bureau. In spite of a resolution at the Twenty-seventh South Pacific Conference for greater emphasis and co-operation on women oriented programmes, governments do not appear to take women's development activities very seriously. Most governments do not have a policy for women and, where women's offices do exist, they are understaffed and underfinanced. It is a fact that in the Pacific most women's activities are conducted by NGOs. There needs to be more attention to the provision of acceptable channels of communication between the Women's Bureau and NGOs, especially in-country ones. Even the stipulation that all formal communication must be channelled through Foreign Affairs Departments rather than directly to the government women's bureaux must be looked at critically.

The Pacific Women's Resource Bureau pamphlet, which contains the policy statement, lists 'Initiating' as the fourth role of the Bureau. This is, strictly speaking, a contradiction to the mandate of the South Pacific Commission. While much has been accomplished in terms of initiating activities through informal contacts, more needs to be done to formalise these lines of communication.

Funding

The 1981 Seminar of South Pacific Women (Tahiti) which put forward the original proposals upon which the Women's Bureau is based suggested that all positions in the Bureau be funded from sources outside SPC. To date all funding for the Women's Bureau has been extra-budgetary.

An earlier ESCAP Sub-regional Meeting for Women in the Pacific recommended that the Resource Bureau's budget should be substantially met by Pacific countries. This has not happened. In fact, apart from France, Australia and New Zealand, only one government (CNMI) has made any direct contribution for women's programmes.

Funds available for current activities are listed below (expressed in CFP francs).

Women's Programme Development Officer (English) (salary, travel and administration)

New Zealand	3,200,000
UNDP (unspent from 1987)	971,137
Northern Mariana Islands (miscellaneous contributions from previous years)	1,296,440

Women's Regional Conference (including March Planning Meeting)

AIDAB	8,515,875
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Rural Credit Scheme for Women

Asian and Pacific Development Centre (using UNDP funds)	1,666,500
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Women's Communication Officer position

AIDAB plus balance from 1987	675,000 6,320,755
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Women's Programme Development Officer (French)

France plus balance from 1987	6,000,000 409,989
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Women's Activities

New Zealand (not yet received)	7,400,000
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CIDA/CUSO/SPC Review Project

Canada (not yet received)	
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PROGRESS IN PROMOTING WOMEN-ORIENTED PROGRAMMES¹**(Paper presented by the Secretariat)**

1. The Twenty-seventh South Pacific Conference, (Noumea 10-14 October 1987,) in noting the 'great need to lobby with governments to encourage them to increase their allocations to women's advancement or to even take it seriously', urged the members of the South Pacific Commission to:

- 'a) place a high priority on women-oriented programmes;
- b) co-operate with the South Pacific Commission to ensure that the activities of the Women's Resource Bureau are effective;
- c) fully co-operate with the South Pacific Commission in the provision of information on women's programmes, including the identification of local needs'.

(Para 53 of the report of the 27th Conference)

2. The Conference also directed that the South Pacific Commission Women's Resource Bureau be asked to report to the Twenty-eighth South Pacific Conference on progress made on the above directives. Subsequently, the Secretariat will be presenting this paper to the Twenty-eighth South Pacific Conference in October this year with a record of further developments. It is being presented at this time for the information and possible action of CRGA.

3. At the time of the Twenty-seventh South Pacific Conference, the Women's Resource Bureau was undergoing a process of reassessment of its direction. New steps were being taken to promote women's interests within existing South Pacific Commission programmes and through women's advancement agencies in individual member countries. Despite the short time since the Twenty-seventh Conference these efforts are now gaining momentum.

4. A document describing SPC work on women is attached to this paper for information.

Management Skills for Women's Bureau

5. One of the problems with women's development in the Pacific is the lack of management experience on the part of staff of women's bureaux in government and many of the non-government organisations. To offset this, the South Pacific Commission Women's Bureau is negotiating a 3-month project to determine the management needs of governmental women's bureaux, followed by an initial 3-week training workshop to address these needs.

¹ This paper was originally presented to the Ninth Meeting of the Committee of Representatives of Governments and Administrations in May 1988 as SPC/CRGA 9/WP. 24.

6. Negotiations are currently under way with the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) for the funding of this project during the last quarter of 1988 under their Women in Development programme.

Women's Regional Conference

7. The Joint Regional Meeting of Government Representatives and Representatives of Non-government Organisations on Women's Affairs in the Pacific (Rarotonga, 25-27 March 1985) recommended that the South Pacific Commission organise a follow-up Regional Conference. This Conference is tentatively scheduled for September 1988.

8. To facilitate the planning of this Regional Women's Conference a Planning Meeting was held in Noumea, 2-4 March 1988. It comprised those South Pacific Commission Programme Officers involved in women's programmes plus representatives of five member countries and regional organisations.

9. The purpose of this Meeting was to explore new formats for the Women's Regional Conference which would make it more meaningful and useful to the participants.

10. The recommendation of this Planning Meeting emphasised that the Regional Conference should comprise a number of workshops, each addressing specific development issues for women in the Pacific. A tentative programme has been prepared by the Planning Meeting in collaboration with the South Pacific Commission Secretariat.

11. AIDAB provided A\$20,000 for the Planning Meeting and has committed A\$93,000 for the Women's Regional Conference.

Proposed Training Courses

12. Several requests have been received by the Women's Resource Bureau for assistance in the preparation of training courses to bring women up-to-date in their development skills.

13. The Women's Resource Bureau has designed an outline for a Basic Community Development Skills course for the Papua New Guinea Government's Division of Women's Affairs' Community Women's Organiser programme. The Solomon Islands Government, which has a similar programme, has also asked for assistance.

Other Projects

14. *Credit Scheme for Women.* The Women's Resource Bureau, with funding assistance from the Asian and Pacific Development Centre, has initiated a small loans Credit Scheme for Women as a pilot project in the Chimbu and East Sepik Provinces of Papua New Guinea. The scheme is based on the concept of revolving loans administered by the women who will benefit from it. If successful, the Credit Scheme concept will be introduced to other Pacific countries.

15. *Mitiaro Integrated Rural Development Project.* The Women's Resource Bureau has been invited by the Cook Islands Government to participate in the Mitiaro project. This project is based on the concept of integrated development.

16. *Funding for Women's Projects.* The Women's Resource Bureau has been instrumental in obtaining funds for two small women's projects in Papua New Guinea: the construction of a market storage facility for vegetables to be built at Angoram Market by the Gavien Women's Association and the purchase of a Word Processor for the East Sepik Women's Development and Communication Project.

17. The New Zealand Government has given NZ\$50,000 for women's projects for the year 1988.

Recommendations

18. The Committee is invited to:

- a) note the paper, and
- b) recommend means by which the Women's Resource Bureau might involve more South Pacific Commission Member Governments in future activities promoting women's interests.

SPC WORK ON WOMEN

A. Introduction

In the context of SPC programmes, it is important to remember that women are people, an integral part of the community, as well as having their own specific problems. Many SPC programmes which address overall community and national needs are as relevant to women as they are to other sections of the community, sometimes more so (example: the rural water supply and sanitation programme does more for women because they are the main carriers and users of water).

It is also important to define how women are seen in their own countries, because this helps to highlight the kinds of assistance they need. In the health context they are females (as opposed to males) with their own specific health problems (e.g. nutrition of pregnant and nursing women, breast and cervical cancer). Custom and tradition define their role in the community - concentrating on the home and the family which again requires specific types of assistance. They are sometimes seen as second class citizens, limited to their traditional roles; the most effective way of changing this attitude is to train women in non-traditional fields (for example financial management of business projects) so that they can *prove* they are capable of making a wider contribution to development. Finally, many women in the Pacific would define a "woman" as a female who is married with children, and whose views will be respected by other women because she has that experience. Single women, however able and well-trained, will not always command that respect, particularly if they are young. There is therefore a need to train older, married women with status in their own communities, as well as the younger, more educated women.

B. SPC Programmes specifically geared to women's needs

- *Women's Bureau* (co-ordination, advice, training and information for women).
- *Project on Socio-economic Statistics on Women* (improvement of data collection, by women, to provide more accurate and relevant information for and on women).
- *Women and Child Health and Nutrition* (to reduce death rates and disease in mothers and children, promote breast-feeding, increase women's knowledge of nutritional requirements, promote food gardening).
- *Regional Survey - Health Status of Women* (funded by WHO - Niue and UNFPA - Marshall Islands). Next survey should be organised in 1989 and it is hoped that it will be in a Melanesian country. Solomon Islands had expressed interest.

- *Community Education Training Centre* (Core course in health, agriculture, community development and women's affairs; choice of either home economics or food and nutrition, plus specialised short courses on request). The 1988 course began in February.

C. Other programmes of particular relevance to women

- *Food Crops Diversification*: main emphasis is on food crops for home consumption; these are mainly produced and cooked by women.
- *Inshore Fisheries Research Project*: many inshore fisheries (e.g. collection of edible shells, lagoon and estuarine fishing) are carried out by women and it is beginning to be recognised that their contribution in this field has been under-estimated. There is a need for more data collection and better resource management of the marine resources harvested by women.
- *Fish Handling and Processing Project*: Women have an important role in fish handling and processing (including both marine products for home consumption and commercial products such as *bêche-de-mer*). Training and information provided by the project are therefore of direct relevance for women. A fish handling and processing course for the women of Daru (PNG) is being jointly organised by staff of the Women's Bureau and the Fish Handling and Processing Officer in 1988.
- *Fisheries Training*: Two of the officers to be attached to the SPC Fisheries programme for in-service training in data compilation and analysis in 1988 are women: one from Palau, the other from Tuvalu.
- *Other fisheries*: The Community Education Training Centre has expressed interest in including a fisheries component (basic knowledge of resource management, handling and processing techniques) in its courses.
- *SPREP*: Many of the participants attending training courses in environmental broadcasting have been women; work on deforestation is of indirect interest to women since they are the main collectors of firewood and subsistence gardeners (deforestation means they have to walk further); many of the teachers using SPREP's environmental curriculum materials are women.
- *Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Project*: Women are the main carriers and users of water.

- *Rural Development Projects:* Women are the prime movers in rural community development; the Integrated Rural Development Projects planned for Mitiaro (Cook Islands) and South Tarawa (Kiribati) will have major input from women. Some funds are available from AIDAB for these projects, but more is needed: women's component will require money for specific activities such as community buildings, visits by experts, materials for starting small income-earning projects. SPC also has a small fund to provide grants for small rural projects which will improve the quality of life - some income-generating, others not. Many of the projects are submitted by women. Rural development workshops also involve women.
- *Health Education and Nutrition Programmes:* These programmes are of particular interest to women: (a) they are the people primarily responsible for health and nutrition at the family level (b) Most of the government staff working in this field are women (dietitians, public health nurses, health educators). The Pacific Islands Food Composition Programme, which began in late 1987, will assist in nutrition education of women, and will also train women from 7 or 8 island nations in skills required by the Programme.
- *Community Health:* Is just as important for women as for men.
- *Statistics and Population:* Numerous women work in national statistical offices, both at the senior level and at the lower-middle levels of data collection and data processing. Training for personnel at these levels will therefore benefit women. Particular efforts are being made to invite more participation by women in population training programmes, including a 3-week course on survey methodology (with special emphasis on household surveys) to be held in Australia in May 1988.
- *Youth Education:* The SPC youth programme works for youth of both sexes, with particular emphasis on uniformed organisations, such as the Girl Guides, and young delinquents.

D. SPC activities related to women since 27th South Pacific Conference

- The Assistant Economist visited the Cook Islands in October 1987 to finalise plans for the Mitiaro Island Integrated Development Project. Women's representatives were among the people consulted.
- The English Women's Programmes Development Officer attended a Regional Seminar on New Perspectives in Communication, organised by SPC and the Friedrich-Ebert Foundation in Tonga in November 1987; among other topics the meeting discussed the involvement of women in the training process of communication and information systems.

- The French Women's Programmes Development Officer spent a week in late November 1987 visiting four centres in New Caledonia to discuss training programmes for women's organisations. The main problem identified was the need for practical, on-the-spot training for Melanesian Villagers on topics such as health and hygiene, economic development, delinquency and lack of jobs. She also held a meeting with a new women's association (Association des femmes de Mou - 50 members) which needs assistance with the establishment of a sewing centre, the development of other income-generating activities and identification of funding and training sources.
- Towards the end of November the Women's Programmes Development Officer (French) also organised a two-day training session for 20 representatives of women's groups on the theme 'How to organise a meeting'.
- In late October/early November 1987 the Nutritionist undertook a two-week assignment to assist French Polynesia's Health Education Department to establish a Nutrition Unit. The Unit's main tasks will be to monitor food balance in nurseries and child-minding centres and to establish a nutrition education programme (with specific reference to obesity, hypertension, cardiovascular diseases and cancers).
- Two nutritionists (Ms Mele'ofa Malolo from Tonga and Ms Brenda Sio from Western Samoa) carried out short-term training attachments at SPC Headquarters in late 1987, during which they worked on the development of SPC/USP nutrition training modules.
- The Pacific Islands Food Composition Programme began with the appointment in late 1987 of the Co-ordinator.
- The Nutritionist visited Vanuatu in January 1988 for two weeks to assist with the development of school health and nutrition curricula for primary schools.
- The Nutritionist visited Tonga in early February 1988 to assist in presentation of the results of the national nutrition survey and attend the Regional Conference of Permanent Heads of Agriculture and Livestock Production Services. The target population of the nutrition survey was children aged 1-5 years and women of child-bearing age. Earlier the Nutritionist had assisted with preparation of survey questionnaires and training manual and had helped to plan and conduct a training workshop for survey staff.

Publications (E = English, F = French)

Published

Information Circular No. 107 - *Marshall Islands Women's Health Survey* (E, F)
 Technical Paper No. 187 - *Niue Women's Health Survey* (F)
 Food Leaflets 10 (*Pineapple*), 11 (*Citrus Fruits*), 12 (*Pumpkin*) (F)
Breast-feeding booklet (Cook Islands Maori)
Sanitation Poster (E, F)
Women's Newsletter, Vol.3 No.1 (E)
 Revised *Baby Health Flipchart* (E, F)
 Technical Paper 193 - *Socio-economic Statistics on Women (Five Case Studies)* (E)

In Press

Three Food Groups Poster (Tongan)
Rehydration Poster (E, F)
The game of good health (health education snakes and ladders game) (E, F)
Nutrition snakes and ladders game (E)
 Reprints of five health education and nutrition posters (E, F)

E. Projects planned by women's bureau for 1988

1. Small-scale credit scheme for women

This scheme is designed to provide small loans for women to start income-generating activities. The concept is essentially a revolving fund which will be administered by the women themselves in each area. The New Zealand Government has generously allocated NZ\$50,000 for the scheme. Presentation of funds under this scheme will be made to organisations in Papua New Guinea by a representative of SPC in March (funds made available by Asian Pacific Development Centre, Kuala Lumpur, as a pilot project for Papua New Guinea, total US\$15,000). In April the Women's Programmes Development Officer (English) will present Solomon Islands with SI\$6,000 to be used for a handicrafts/takeaway food shop, and training for and establishment of a credit scheme; the funds are part of the New Zealand grant mentioned above.

2. Handicrafts development

Following requests from Kiribati and Tuvalu, the Women's Programmes Development Officer (English) has contacted the New Zealand and Australian Trade Commissioners to try and find market outlets in New Zealand and Australia for handicrafts. Discussions are on-going with Australia re possible handicraft exhibits from these countries at Sydney and Brisbane Trade Fairs (second half of 1988). Funds are needed for transport, air fares, accommodation, display materials. Cost per person is estimated at A\$6,000. If sufficient funds were forthcoming, similar assistance would also be offered to Solomon Islands and Vanuatu.

3. *Educational exchange scheme for Pacific Island women*

This scheme would enable Pacific Islands women to visit other countries to learn techniques related to information collection, handicrafts production and marketing, and other small-scale income-generating activities appropriate for rural women. Examples of visits already requested:

- Solomon Islands women to New Zealand to learn about women's information networks
- Niue women to Western Australia to study women's information network
- Papua New Guinea women to Philippines and/or Thailand to study handicrafts and vegetable production and marketing (a reciprocal visit by women from these countries to PNG would be offered)
- Tuvalu women to Sepik area of Papua New Guinea to learn about handicrafts and banana chip-making
- Papua New Guinea women to Tuvalu to study methods of promoting and marketing handicrafts.

ESCAP has tentatively offered to provide return airfares if host countries would cover internal costs. Estimated cost of one visit (including both airfares and in-country costs): US\$2,000. An initial fund of US\$30,000 is needed.

4. *Training courses for village-based women extension officers*

Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands have established a system whereby selected women work in their home communities doing women's extension work. While they collaborate with Government extension officers in many fields, they are not government employees; they live in their own homes and are given a very small monthly allowance. Vanuatu (which has a similar system for village-based health workers) is considering using the same system for women workers. The proposed training courses would give newly-recruited officers a basic understanding of their role, help them to know each other and their office counterparts so as to establish a support network, and provide them with basic knowledge of the work of different government offices and project preparation and development. Funding is urgently needed for this project. Estimated costs:

- PNG: K17,500 (US\$21,000)
- Solomon Islands: SI\$19,600 (US\$9,800).

5. Assistance to two self-help projects in East Sepik, PNG

(a) Marketing facility for Gavien settler women

These are women who live on the Gavien rubber resettlement scheme and sell garden produce in the town of Angoram. Over the past ten years, they have built up their market gardening project and, by their own efforts, have had one of their members trained in agriculture and purchased a truck. The marketing of their produce in Angoram takes several days and because they are resettled women, they have no 'wantoks' to whom they can turn for accommodation. They urgently needed a building in which to sleep and store their produce. The women were ready to provide labour, transport and some local building materials but needed funds to purchase cement and other materials. K2,500 has been granted to this project under the credit scheme.

(b) Desk-top publishing equipment for East Sepik Women's Development Documentation and Communication Project

This project operates several community centres which conduct a variety of short courses on topics ranging from contraception to agriculture. They prepare their own pamphlets, posters and audio-visual materials. They require desktop publishing equipment to speed up and improve their documents production. Estimated total cost of equipment is US\$4,200. SPC has provided K2,500 to assist in purchasing the equipment, while the women have found funds from other sources to make up the full amount.

6. Workshop on Research and Documentation Skills

This Workshop is a collaborative project between the University of Guam and SPC. It is designed for Pacific Islands women researchers, particularly Micronesians. In preparation for the meeting, a handbook/guide for Pacific Islands women researchers will be produced. As well as providing training and discussion on research and documentation, the workshop will compile a preliminary report on the status of women's programmes, projects and organisations in Micronesia. Funding is needed for 14 participants, airfares and per diem for the Women's Programme Officer (English) and a consultant, and production of the handbook/guide.

Total cost: US\$20,938.

7. Regional Conference on Women's Affairs

A Planning Meeting to prepare for the Conference was held in March 1988, and the Conference will take place in September. The Government of Australia has provided A\$20,000 for the Planning Meeting and A\$93,000 for the Conference.

8. *Management Skills for Women's Bureaux and Organisations*

This will be a 3-5 year project to be wholly funded by the Canadian International Development Agency. The first phase will start in the second half of 1988 with visits to 12 Pacific Island countries by two consultants expert in management programmes. They will analyse the management needs of Government women's bureaux. The consultant visits will be followed by a three-week workshop for heads of women's bureaux plus one other person involved in programme development and administration from each country. The workshop will develop specific action plans to upgrade the skills of women's bureaux and will be followed by closely-monitored in-country development and training.

9. *Publications*

To be issued in 1988:

- 3 more issues of *Women's Newsletter*
- *Working with women - A community development handbook for Pacific women*
- *Resource kit for Pacific women (includes Directories of women's organisations, sources of funding and technical assistance, and skilled Pacific women)*

Printing and distribution will be funded under the Budget Item for Women's Communications Officer; the post is presently unfilled.

10. *Training for francophone women*

There is an urgent need for the leaders of women's groups in the francophone territories to establish better organisation and better information services. A two-week in-country training course should be held annually for each of the three territories on such topics as administration of a women's association, role of leaders, project evaluation and establishment of communications systems. Extra-budgetary funding is needed.

The Women's Programmes Development Officer (French) will be carrying out three 2-day training courses for New Caledonian women leaders in February, March and May 1988. In April, she will be making a one-week visit to Wallis and Futuna.

NEW DIRECTIONS FOR THE PACIFIC WOMEN'S RESOURCE BUREAU**(Paper presented by the SPC Secretariat)**

The policy statement of the Pacific Women's Resource Bureau lists three goals:

- a) To assist national women's offices in upgrading their skills to deal with women's problems at local, national, regional and international levels.
- b) To assist governments on request in bringing about the active participation of women in national development efforts.
- c) To develop an information network among Pacific women as a means of exchanging ideas and views and to develop national and regional programmes on issues and problems facing women.

In pursuing these goals the Bureau has identified four major problem areas:

1. Women's development activities often focus on a few top women. Approaches must be modified to broaden the range of women reached.
2. There tends to be too much emphasis on the needs of the development agencies; for example, efforts to use up available money without considering the absorptive capacity of the women's structures. Women's priorities and needs often do not match those of the agencies.
3. Women's national focal points may not be effective due to understaffing, underfinancing, lack of adequate training and constant policy shifts by governments. At the same time, their functions are not clearly enumerated and so are not well understood; because of this, they are often bypassed by central planners. Also, much of the development initiative by women comes through non-government organisations. There needs to be a reassessment of the channels of communication.
4. Information networks are not functioning as well as they could, with the result that women's groups and organisations are working in isolation. More attention needs to be given to this important development function.

Proposed activities

- continue the upgrading of the Information Library;
- continue with plans to develop information/resource materials such as posters, audio tapes and pamphlets;

- seek funding to upgrade the Women's Communications Officer position immediately to a P4 or P5 level with a 2 to 3 year contract with SPC;
- expand the upcoming 'Management Skills for Women's Bureaux' project from the present nine countries to include all Pacific countries;
- ensure that funding exists for the implementation of training or other needs identified by the Management Skills project;
- continue to seek funding for the 'Small Scale Credit Scheme for Women' project, which includes a training component;
- establish a Small Scale Project Fund for Income Generating Activities within the South Pacific Commission;
- co-ordinate the establishment of a Pacific Women's Handicraft Marketing Association, including components for marketing administration and skills training;
- pressure governments and the South Pacific Commission to allow the Women's Bureau to deal directly with NGOs;
- immediately establish the post of Administrative Assistant to the Women's Bureau;
- seek increased funding for travel, to enable Women's Bureau staff to visit, advise, co-ordinate and assist with project proposals, policy preparations and fund seeking activities.

The Conference is invited to discuss the proposed activities as a starting point in defining new directions for the Women's Bureau.

**REPORT OF PLANNING MEETING
FOR FOURTH REGIONAL WOMEN'S CONFERENCE****(Paper presented by SPC Secretariat)****1. Introduction**

A meeting was held to undertake planning for the proposed second Joint Regional Meeting of Government Representatives and Representatives of Non-Government Organisations on Women's Affairs in the Pacific to be held in 1988.

The list of participants to the Planning Meeting appears as Attachment I.

2. Venue and date

It was agreed that the Government of Fiji would be formally approached to host the meeting which would be held in conjunction with the Twenty-fifth Anniversary Celebrations of the SPC's Community Education Training Centre. This anniversary falls on 6 September 1988. However, it was pointed out that there was a date clash with a joint SPC/SPEC Consultative Meeting to be held in Brisbane, 5-10 September which affected utilisation of interpretation services.

The meeting agreed that this matter be referred to the Secretary-General for his deliberation.

3. Issues

It was agreed that a Workshop format would be the most appropriate for the September Meeting. Eleven major topic areas were identified, showing specific subject matter coverage for inclusion in each workshop. The eleven workshops are as follows:

i) Women's Health, including:

- Nutrition
- Teenage pregnancies
- Maternal health
- Venereal disease and associated infertility
- Occupational health and safety
- Sanitation

ii) Drugs and Alcoholism, including:

- Hard drug usage
- AIDS
- Violence against women and related legal issues
- Reference to a recent AIDAB Alcohol Workshop

iii) *Women in Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry*, including:

- Women as family food producers
- Training in extension work
- Identification of suitable agricultural activities
- Craft material depletion
- Women's role in fishing activities
- Depletion of fuelwood and other forest resources

iv) *Networking and Communication*, including:

- Training in computer use
- Fax and other new communication technology
- Design of newsletters
- Media techniques
- Writing project proposals
- Models of networking e.g. Technical co-operation among developing countries (TCDC)

v) *Women and Appropriate Technology*, including:

- Alternative renewable energy sources
- Practically oriented technologies
- Food preservation
- Appropriate technology in handicraft and food processing
- Transfer of local technology skills from elders
- Technologies developed by SPATF (South Pacific Appropriate Technology Foundation) in PNG
- Other appropriate technology institutions

vi) *Women as Decision Makers*, including:

- Women in politics
- Women in administration
- Community decision makers
- Chairing of meetings
- Workshop leadership
- Assertiveness training
- Ministries of Women's Affairs
- Working alongside men
- Reflection on women's own attitudes to their roles

vii) *Women and Development Planning*, including:

- Collection of data (socio-economist statistics)
- Review of Development Plans to ensure women's input
- Utilisation of women's skills in development planning

viii) *Employment and Self-Employment through Income Generating*, including:

- Recommendations from report of Regional Meeting of Pacific Islands Non-Governmental Organisations, Rarotonga 1985, p. 18
- Experiences of businesswomen
- Greater encouragement of people to stay in home area
- Income generation and associated problems of resource depletion
- Development finance institutions (e.g. Development Banks)
- Child care
- Maternity leave
- Non-traditional jobs - impact on the family
- Lending schemes (e.g. small loans for equipment)
- Management and control of funds
- Basic introduction at school level for self-employment

ix) *Educational Equality, Career and Vocational Guidance for Women*, including:

- Encouragement of pride in traditional skills to avoid die-out
- Career counselling and career guidance days
- Relevance of existing school curricula
- Parenting skills
- Role of women in religious education

x) *Role of Women's Organisations in Environmental Education*, including:

- Impact on women of development projects
- Forestry issues
- Soil erosion
- Fresh water availability
- Waste disposal (household & industrial)
- Pesticide usage
- Mangrove protection
- Coastal zone protection (especially coral reefs)

xi) *Women and the Law*

- Need for education re women's rights
- Constitutional rights
- Discriminatory practices
- Customary law
- Statutory law
- Cultural attitudes
- Church doctrines
- General legal awareness
- Societal expectations
- International Convention on All Forms of Discrimination

4. Structure of meeting

It was agreed that the meeting be of six days' duration and structured as follows:

DAY 1	DAY 2	DAY 3	DAY 4	DAY 5	DAY 6
Plenary	Workshops	Workshops	Workshops	Workshops	Plenary
. Opening ceremony	. Women's Health	DAY 2 Workshop Sessions continue	(1-1½ day sessions which commenced on Day 3, continue throughout Day 4)	. Drugs and alcoholism	Workshop Recommendations and Discussion
. Intro-duction, including results of recommendations from 1985 Rarotonga Meeting	. Appropriate Technology for Women	Workshops		. Women in Development Planning	Closing Ceremony (possibly in evening)
	. Networking and Communication	. Women as Decision Makers		. Educational Equality Career and Vocational Guidance for Women	
LUNCH	. Employment and Self-Employment through Income Generation	. Women in Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry		. Role of Women's Organisations in Environmental Education (1 day workshop)	
. New Directions for the Community Education Training Centre (CETC)		. Women and the Law			
. New Directions for Pacific Women's Resource Bureau (PWRB)					

5. Overall meeting theme

It was agreed that the theme be 'Pacific Women: Challenge to Change'.

6. Conference documentation

It was agreed that there be 2 categories of documentation as follows:

a) Background Documents:

- Documentation from UN Nairobi Conference
- Report of Workshop on Socio Economic Statistics on Women, Noumea, February 1987
- Display of material relating to Women's Issues
- No country reports will be presented verbally. However, in the case of a country bringing a typed report, it can be displayed as background material.

b) Working Papers

- WP.1 - New Directions for Pacific Women's Resource Bureau (PWRB)
- WP.2 - New Directions for the Community Education Training Centre (CETC)
- WP.3 - Report on Recommendations from Rarotonga Conference, 1985.

7. Opening and closing ceremonies

It was agreed that the Prime Minister of Fiji be approached to open the meeting and a representative of the major funding agency be requested to making the closing speech.

8. Meeting Chairman

It was agreed that the meeting should elect its own Chairman at the first sitting of Plenary.

9. Drafting Committee

It was agreed that the Plenary, on its first day, should elect a Drafting Committee Chairman who would liaise with individual Workshop facilitators (leaders) to draw up recommendations for presentation back to Plenary on its final day's sitting.

10. Level of meeting participation

It was agreed that each island member government nominate two delegates, one from the government sector and the other representing non-government organisations. All other delegates would have observer status, which enables their active participation in Workshops but would not entitle them to vote within Plenary.

11. Social activities

It was agreed that details of social activities be organised by the host country in consultation with the SPC.

12. Resource people

It was agreed that resource people be invited to assist with running Workshops. Specific people to be approached in this capacity were identified as follows:

Workshops

i) Women's Health

Augusta Rengil, Guam (4)
 Nga Short, Cook Islands (3)
 Jacqui Badcock, SPC (R)
 Marie Madison, Marshall Islands (2)
 Jan Alfred, Marshall Islands
 Manoa Bale, SPC (R)
 Dr Kato Anga, Fiji (1)

ii) Drugs & Alcoholism

Police Supt. Naiveli, Ch. Fiji
 Manoa Bale, SPC
 Yap Substance Abuse Centre people, Yap
 Women's Refuge Centre, Guam
 Patricia Jalal, Women's Crisis Centre, Fiji

iii) *Women in Agriculture, Fisheries & Forestry*

Elizabeth Cox, PNG
 Susi Smith, Vanuatu
 Marietta Rigamoto, Fiji (Leader)
 Monalisa Tukuafa, USP, Tonga
 Kato Tama, SPC (R)
 Franco Mateariki, CETC (R)
 Alastair Robertson, SPC (R)
 Penny Schoeffel, New Zealand
 Kesaia Tubunakawai, Forestry Dept., Fiji (R)
 Anne Walker (c & f)?

iv) *Networking and Communication*

SPC Media Centre
 Elizabeth Cox, PNG (3)
 Pamela Thomas, ANU, Australia (2)
 Library Staff, SPC
 Carole Martin-Cocher, SPC Computer Manager
 Dianne Goodwillie, USP, Fiji (L) 1
 USP Video Unit

v) *Women & Appropriate Technology*

Monalisa Tukuafa, Tonga (L) 1
 CETC Staff (R)
 Assistant Economist, SPC (R)
 USP Extension Services (R)
 SPATF, PNG (R)
 Elizabeth Cox (2)
 Centre for Appropriate Technology, Fiji (R)

vi) *Women as Decision-Makers*

Hilda Lini, Vanuatu
 Vanuatu Opposition Party Female MP
 Irene Jai Narayan, MP, Fiji (L)
 Margaret Nakikus, PNG
 Marie Madison, Marshall Islands
 Suliana Siwatibau
 Marietta Rigamoto, Fiji
 Nahau Rooney, PNG (R)
 Hélène Courte, SPC
 Fanaura Kingston, EPOC, Vanuatu
 Carmen Pearson, Guam (R)
 Esther Williams, USP, Fiji
 Noumea Simi, Western Samoa (2)

vii) *Women in Development Planning*

Heather Booth, SPC (R)
 Margaret Nakikus, PNG (3)
 Pamela Pryor, Hawaii (3)
 Finau Tabakauco, Fiji (L) 1
 Eci Kikau, USP, Fiji (4)
 Mere Rokosawa, Fiji (2)
 Reina..., Kiribati Planning Office

viii) *Employment & Self-Employment Through Income Generation*

Mrs Bungtabu Brown, PNG (2)
 Pamela Pryor, Hawaii (1)
 Biken Paeniu, SPC (R)
 Mere Samisoni, Fiji (R)
 Tanya Whiteside, Fiji (R)
 Nelien Hasper, ILO (R)

ix) *Education Quality, Career & Vocational Guidance for Women*

Lili King, CETC (R)
 Penny Schoeffel (R)
 Taufu Vakatale, Fiji (R)
 Konai Thaman, USP, Fiji (L)
 Carmen Pearson

x) *Role of Women's Organisations in Environmental Education*

Neva Wendt, SPC (R)
 Jenny Bryant, USP, Fiji (R)
 Ruth Lechte, Fiji (L)
 Suliana Siwatibau, Fiji (R)

xi) *Women and Law*

Mere Pulea, Nauru
 Women Lawyers of the Pacific
 Patricia Jalal, Fiji
 Fote Trolu, New Caledonia
 Vusega Helu, Fiji (Magistrate) (P)
 Josefa Kinauwe, PNG
 Christine Bradley, PNG (P)
 Judge Janet Weeks, Guam (Speaker)

13. The meeting agreed that the Principal, CETC and the Women's Programme Officer (English) should discuss further details of the meeting with the Secretary-General.

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Fiji	Mrs Fusi Vave Caginavanua Director, Women's Affairs SUVA
Guam	Mrs Carmen L.G. Pearson Media Services/Community Development University of Guam AGANA 96910
New Caledonia	Mme Françoise Nicaisse Soroptimist NOUMEA
Pacific Islands Association	Ms Pamela Pryor Executive Director Pacific Islands Association 3536 Harding Avenue, Suite 400 Honolulu HAWAII 96816
Australian Consulate-General	Ms Meredith Schroder NOUMEA
SPC Women's Intercultural Society	Mrs Tupu Tuiasosopo Mrs Helen Thorstensen Mrs Yvette Terrell-Perica

**REPORT ON RECOMMENDATIONS FROM REGIONAL MEETING OF PACIFIC
ISLANDS WOMEN NGOs AND JOINT REGIONAL MEETING OF GOVERNMENT
REPRESENTATIVES AND REPRESENTATIVES OF NON-GOVERNMENT
ORGANISATIONS ON WOMEN'S AFFAIRS IN THE PACIFIC
(Rarotonga, Cook Islands, 19-27 March 1985)**

(Paper presented by the SPC Secretariat)

I. Background

The joint Regional Meeting of Government Representatives and Representatives of Non-Government Organisations on Women's Affairs in the Pacific which was held in Rarotonga, Cook Islands, 25-27 March, 1985 recommended that, 'The South Pacific Commission organise a follow-up meeting in two years time'.

In accordance with this recommendation the Fourth Regional Women's Conference is being held in Suva, Fiji, 17-23 September 1988.

II. Purpose

1. To evaluate the progress made by Pacific women since the Rarotonga Joint Meeting.
2. To provide action-oriented training workshops to assist Pacific women to deal with the issues facing them.
3. To assess the programmes of the Pacific Women's Resource Bureau and to suggest new directions until the next regional conference.
4. To plan strategies for women in development in the Pacific for the coming years.

III. Issues

1. National government women's offices have low status and suffer from lack of resources and trained staff to carry out all the responsibilities expected of them.
2. Many women's offices act as implementors of social programmes and often in isolation from national development programmes.

3. At the national level there are no clear policy guidelines on women and development and on how to integrate women's concerns into development policies and programmes of sectorial ministries.
4. NGOs are not making full use of the resources available from their governments.
5. In many countries there is a lack of communication among NGOs, national women's offices, planners or decision-makers and regional agencies including the Pacific Women's Resource Bureau.

IV. Constraints

Women are continuing to seek ways to deal with the numerous problems and issues facing their communities. Although many governments have established national offices for women, they do not have clear policies on what these women's offices should do.

Governments are often irritated when women's groups do not follow national policies set up on how to relate to outside aid and technical agencies which are offering assistance.

The staff of national women's offices are not given the proper skills-training required and women are not clear as to what is expected from national women's offices and so do not utilise the services available. Often requests are not met because of lack of resources, political favours or lack of trained staff to respond to the needs. This attitude often makes women lose confidence in the national women's office and creates communication problems between women's groups and national women's offices.

Governments, however, regard the national women's office as the focal point of contact between them and women and in most cases expect women's concerns and requests to be channelled through national women's offices.

V. Strategies

To enable national women's offices to function effectively in responding to women's needs and concerns it is essential that national women's offices be strengthened. This can be done by:

1. The formation and adoption of a policy guideline in relation to women and development.
2. The training of staff in required skills.
3. The allocation of necessary resources to enable women's offices to function efficiently.

4. The establishment of networking links among women's groups, NGO organisations, national women's offices and regional agencies to facilitate information flow and improve communications and participation in the planning processes.

VI. Conference approach

To address these issues and constraints this Regional Women's Conference will utilise three formats:

1. Plenary Session - to discuss progress since the Cook Islands Joint Meeting and to evaluate the activities and approach of the Pacific Women's Resource Bureau and the Community Education Training Programmes as well as to identify present trends and constraints on women's development in the Pacific.
2. Workshops - NGO and women's offices staff are expected to design and implement programmes, projects and training in a wide range of areas from health to business management to leadership skills but often individuals responsible do not have experience in these areas. The action oriented workshops will present the subject matter to participants as well as identify training and other needs. They will also develop concrete proposals for future action with the intention of integrating these proposals into an overall Action Plan.
3. Summary Sessions - the final two days of the Conference will hear reports and recommendations from the Workshops and will integrate these with the findings and evaluations of the first Plenary Session into a Plan of Action for the next three years around the theme 'CHALLENGE TO CHANGE'.

VII. Recommendations of the Joint Meetings and action taken

The previous Conference in the Cook Islands in 1985 was actually two meetings, 'Regional Meeting of Pacific Islands Women's Non-Governmental Organisations', 19-23 March, and, 'Joint Regional Meeting of Government Representatives and Representatives of Non-Government Organisations on Women's Affairs in the Pacific'. (Both reports are available)

(a) The Non-Government Organisations made four recommendations:

1. That a Pacific Regional Women's Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) be formed from the meeting. The Steering Committee consists of one representative each from Melanesia, Polynesia, Micronesia, American Territories, French Territories, and the Pacific Women's Resource Bureau.

Action Taken: An association was formed but it has not been visible throughout the region in recent years.

2. That the South Pacific Commission, the Pacific Women's Resource Bureau and the Steering Committee appointed by this meeting should sponsor another meeting in two years' time to review action on the recommendations of this report.

Action Taken: The Pacific Women's Resource Bureau, acting under the Secretariat of the South Pacific Commission, has organised this Regional Women's Conference. This Conference is taking place three years after the Joint Meeting as the South Pacific Commission Secretariat felt that it was not possible to organise this follow-up Conference after two years due to excessive commitments by the South Pacific Commission to other regional meetings.

3. That the Committee of Representatives of Governments and Administrations (CRGA) be asked through the Pacific Women's Resource Bureau to give the South Pacific Commission the mandate necessary for it to work directly with non-governmental organisations.

Action taken: The 1985 South Pacific Conference, following discussions on the agenda item, 'role of the Secretariat in Relation to Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs)' supported the following amendment,

'Given the above and based on recent experience, the Secretariat concludes that the status quo whereby all requests from a country are channelled through one official focal point is still relevant and appropriate. As regards regional NGO meetings, the Secretariat will limit its assistance to material support in the form of technical assistance and advice and will not participate in the discussions in any way whatsoever.'

4. That the government of each country of the Pacific fund at least one woman representative to attend the World Conference and NGO Forum on the United Nations Decade for Women in Nairobi in July 1985.

Action Taken: This was up to each individual government but the Women's Bureau did actively encourage attendance, especially by NGO representatives, and was able to offer some assistance in organising financing. At Nairobi, 14 Pacific nations and 6 Pacific regional organisations were represented, with a total attendance of about 50 Pacific women.

(b) The Joint Meeting made 8 recommendations:

1. This Joint Regional Meeting of Government Representatives and Representatives of Non-Government Organisations on Women's Affairs in the Pacific supports the first draft of the policy statement on the Pacific Women's Resource Bureau.

Action Taken: The policy statement has now been completed and is available in pamphlet form.

2. The Pacific Women's Resource Bureau continues its present activities and takes into consideration the priorities presented in the report of the Regional Meeting of Pacific Islands Women's Non-Governmental Organisations in designing its future activities.

Action Taken: These recommendations have been taken into account as far as is practical given that many of them (e.g. health) are outside the scope of the Women's Bureau.

3. The Pacific Women's Resource Bureau should co-ordinate the review of the impact on women of the South Pacific Commission programmes as SPC does a major review per year of a single SPC programme.

Action Taken: The Health Programme was reviewed in 1988 and the Youth Programme is to be reviewed in 1989.

4. Because this Joint Meeting considers the funding of the post of Communications Specialist for the Pacific Women's Resource Bureau a top priority, that the South Pacific Commission continue to seek funding for this staff position.

Action Taken: The position of Women's Communication Officer has now been funded and is filled. There are, however, questions of continuity of funding.

5. The South Pacific Commission seek funding for the additional post of Administrative Assistant to the Pacific Women's Resource Bureau to enable the Bureau to carry out its co-ordination role more effectively.

Action taken: No progress has been made on this recommendation.

6. The South Pacific Commission make a positive commitment to the continuation of the Pacific Women's Resource Bureau by funding at least one staff position in the Bureau.

Action Taken: To date all funding for the Women's Bureau continues to be extra-budgetary due in part to the lack of willingness of the SPC member countries to make direct funding allocations for the Women's Bureau.

7. The French Government continue to fund the post of the Women's Programme Development Officer for the Francophone countries.

Action Taken: The French Government has continued to fund the Women's Officer (French) position up to the end of 1988 and it is anticipated that they will continue to fund the position for 1989.

8. The South Pacific Commission organise a follow-up Joint Regional Meeting of Government Representatives and Representatives of Non-Government Organisations in two years' time.

Action Taken: This meeting has now been organised after three years under the title 'Fourth Regional Women's Conference: Challenge to Change'.

**ADDRESS BY MRS LILI KING, PRINCIPAL,
COMMUNITY EDUCATION TRAINING CENTRE (CETC)**

Ni sa yadra vinaka. This morning I would particularly like to welcome ex-students of CETC. This being our 25th anniversary, I would also like to mention that it is most appropriate that this Regional Women's Conference is held in Fiji, because in addition to the Government delegations, we have already here at the Centre 29 ladies from the region who are joining us for the Conference. I think, perhaps, this would be one of the few conferences where there would be a lot more regional people attending, because we are situated here in Fiji.

I would like firstly, to say my presentation will be in three parts, or by three people. First, I will give my own view, and perhaps the direction of the Training Centre. I have asked one of my ex-students from 1987 to give her view on how the programme benefited her work as a community worker and I have asked the Chairman of the Students' Curriculum Committee to give the students' view on what they feel the course is doing for them. I hope you will forgive us for three people presenting the Community Education Training Centre programme.

We also have a video that has been prepared by our SPC Media Centre and I hope, we will have time to see this.

May I, on behalf of us all, thank Mme Marie Claire Beccalossi for her address. I am sure you will agree with me that she has presented very clearly issues that we have to think about very seriously. For instance, she mentioned development and the need for proper development. And development will only arise from recommendations we make at a Conference like this. I can assure Mme Beccalossi that we will give thought to her words of advice, especially in our deliberations today, and we have also noted a message from her that we are not in isolation from the rest of the community or nations. We work with our counterparts, we represent different generations and that advice we will take seriously too.

We appreciate the problems of the Resource Bureau. We notice the problem of staffing, which is very common in our own areas of operation, and we would like to look at that problem and come up with constructive recommendations.

She also mentioned that the under-utilisation of the Bureau is something that we ought to think about and maybe we, as representatives from our various groups or countries, can do something while we are at this Conference and go back with some positive line of action, so that our various countries or our communities or our regions can fully utilise this vehicle which was established for us after our request in 1982.

Now with these few words, I would like to thank you again for your address, and I am sure we have been given good thoughts for the day. Thank you.

May I request that we shift our minds a little bit from the Resource Bureau to the Community Education Training Centre for the South Pacific Commission. As our programme directs us, we will look at the topic, and hopefully, at the end of the day, we will agree on some new directions for this very important Centre.

You should have before you the CETC brochure, the summary of my paper and two savingrams, savingram No. 6 and savingram No. 50.

The seminar in Tahiti came up with many discussion papers. In this seminar, much discussion was centred on the role of the Community Education Training Centre and one of the main recommendations was the evaluation of the Community Education Programme. As a result of that recommendation, the SPC requested USP to provide two evaluators and eventually Ms Claire Slatter did the evaluation of the Community Education Programme in 1983.

One of the main criticisms of the Community Education Programme was that the type of training offered did not meet the needs of the community leaders. And so there was to be a revised curriculum. This was put out in 1984 and that curriculum is now being used by us. I am very new at the Centre and this being my second year there, I can only speak for the years 1987 and 1988. I may not be able to respond to comments made by ex-students because I was not at the Centre to know what was being taught in the years before 1987.

Hopefully, the Centre aims to provide women community workers with many opportunities for acquiring knowledge, attitudes and technical skills appropriate for their role in contributing various aspects of education to rural women.

I would like us to ponder a little on this aim. The criticisms that arise usually focus on three things. On the acquisition of skills, how much teaching time should be allocated to this? On attitudes, how does one teach attitudes, or how does one enhance, mainly in the learning institutions, the kind of attitudes required of a good community worker? How much time should be given to women who come with little or no skills, to be given skills to be good community workers, because these are the aims of the Community Education Training Centre? It is not always easy to satisfy these aims.

The Tahiti Conference asked if the Centre could be relocated in a much more suitable background and this has been done. The Centre is now located about eight miles from Suva and it is self-contained. It has residential quarters for 36 students, practical rooms and lecture rooms. The area is about 6 acres and we have security fencing, so the compound is quite safe for the number of ladies who live there.

The main training activity is a nine-month course from February to October. There were also some criticisms on the criteria that SPC lays down for participants. They should be women aged between 20 and 40 and when they return, all the trainees must have guaranteed jobs. One of the main criticisms was that when the women went back, they did not find jobs so that the training seemed fruitless.

The third point in the criteria for participants, which is very important for non-Government organisations is to remember, is that all participants must be sponsored by their Governments. We do receive applications from non-Government organisations and because of protocol of SPC, I cannot handle them. They are sent back to your Government to see whether they will endorse those women.

Perhaps it is important for you to know the channels through which your nominations will go before nomination papers are sent and you are disappointed because I do not communicate with you. I send your papers back to your Foreign Affairs Department.

All students since last year study community development, health and agriculture. They have options to choose: either home economics and craft or food and nutrition. Some choose to do both, some choose to do one.

Other technical skills are part of the community development curriculum; they include the making of stoves or items appropriate for the rural home. There are six subjects, subject areas, taught at the Centre. Four of them are listed in the brochure. The community development section is actually divided into three parts: community development studies, support studies (which include the learning of English, first aid and other valuable subjects which community workers should know about) and a section on women's development and women's issues. The fourth subject is agriculture, the fifth is health, the sixth is nutrition and the seventh is home economics and craft. So, there are seven subject areas taught at the Centre.

One of the questions that I am usually asked is: 'Who pays for everything?' The course is free to all participants. In other words, SPC provides all the course materials, some personal laundry materials and the food and the board are also free. This year, the participants are also given a very small pocket allowance. Otherwise, the participants only bring their personal effects to the course. And if they like, their salary to live a more comfortable life while in Fiji.

So that the current programme can be improved, I have identified three needs. One of the more urgent needs is for curriculum materials for six subject areas: community development, women's development, support studies, agriculture, home economics and food and nutrition.

We are currently writing, in conjunction with the South Pacific Alliance for Family Health, a curriculum for the health component of the course. I hope that in the near future, somebody will find some money to help us write the materials for the other six subjects.

If I may explain a little more on these things: the materials that we require are teachers' guides, students' workbooks, students' texts and so on. These are for use at the Centre for teaching. We would also like a handbook to give our students to use in the community. All these subject areas do not, at the moment, have these things. For those of you who are teachers, you are aware that in any classroom teaching, there are the basic materials that a teacher uses.

At our Centre, we have a Curriculum and it is up to the individual instructors to create their own teaching materials, notes and things for the students. So if we change instructors each year, it depends on the instructor's interpretation of the course to know what to give the students.

My third point is that this is very urgent. We have worked out the cost of one of the curriculum materials to be about \$90,000 Fiji dollars, to be spent over three years, to include consultants, workshop, the trialling of materials, the first printing of these materials and the final printing after the evaluation of the materials. That is for the teaching component.

My second strategy for improving the current course is the need to improve the residential facilities so that each lady has a study bedroom which allows for privacy and for storage of her personal effects. At the moment, the residential quarters are very open and I hope that some of you will have time, perhaps on Friday morning, to come out to the Centre to see what this new Centre, which is only three years old, is like and perhaps see for yourselves what I mean about the lack of privacy that exists in the residential quarters.

The third need is to improve the teaching facilities to cater for the practical activities that have been identified in the curriculum. Perhaps, when the Centre was built, there was not enough guidance given on the activities that the programme would have so that the building should have been done to suit the kind of activities that the programme has. Therefore, we need an area or room for printing and dyeing which is a wet-work room; an area for craft so that the women can leave their mats spread out on the floor while they are in the process of weaving them; and an area for appropriate technology and woodwork.

If these three things are done, there is going to be a lot of money required. I do not know where this money will come from but I hope that, perhaps, you could be made aware of what the current situation is at the Centre. With regards to a new direction for CETC, the Rarotonga Conference identified two recommendations. Page 19 of the Conference report reads, 'That the South Pacific Commission Community Education Training Centre should diversify its programme to provide intensive, short-term training courses for women in commerce, business management and administration'.

Page 46 of the same report of the 1985 Conference reads, 'members of the South Pacific Commission should support the proposal to expand the curriculum of the SPC/CETC at Suva, to include business and administrative skills and leadership training and meet the financial implication of such expansions'.

My question is, if there are to be the short courses, what happens to the nine-month course? One cannot ask for a change, I think, unless you delete something or you expand it. If you are to accommodate new subjects as has been suggested, what subjects are to be deleted from the current course?

I think if we are to achieve anything, we cannot always make a suggestion implying that funding is available somewhere to put in that particular course. Since we have a training centre and the facilities, perhaps it is better that we re-design the course to suit the needs, rather than expanding the programme to suit additional needs that have been identified.

My other point for the new direction for the CETC would be to have short courses for couples. This being my second year, there have been some problems with the families. Husbands have requested the return of their wives while mothers have requested to go back because of problems with children. Perhaps there is a way to identify couples who are working as community workers. Maybe that is something that the Conference could consider. But if we are to have couples, then the accommodation needs to be redesigned to accommodate these needs.

I have made two suggestions in the paper to the Women's Conference and to women's organisations. There is a need to make specific recommendations to your representatives at the Committee of Representatives of Governments and Administrations (CRGA) on the direction of training at CETC. We have existed for 25 years, perhaps on decisions made by men. It is time, perhaps, for the women, through their Government representatives to the South Pacific Commission, to make representation as to the kind of training we want for our women.

The second one is to make recommendations to the CRGA to support the view of the 1983 evaluator that a CETC Curriculum Advisory Committee should be set up to continuously review the CETC programme to meet the current needs of our island community. The women's conference occurs every three years. Are we to wait for three years to decide on the direction of training at CETC? Or perhaps it might be better if a regional group of women meet annually decide on the focus on the training at the CETC.

**ADDRESS BY MRS BUNGTABU BROWN, PRESIDENT,
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN, PAPUA NEW GUINEA,
ON THE THEME 'PACIFIC WOMEN: CHALLENGE TO CHANGE'**

I feel very humble being asked to be the keynote speaker at this very important meeting of Pacific women leaders. When I was first asked, I found it very difficult to accept the honour and the responsibility that accompany the request to speak.

I am not an expert. I am comfortable addressing you only as what I am: a village woman, a devoted wife and mother of three; a woman who works in a team with other women to make our women's organisations stronger and more effective; a businesswoman and a member of the Church.

Many of you are saying to yourself - she is describing me. I stand before you as one of you - as your Pacific sister. What I say comes from my heart, my heritage and my experience in Papua New Guinea.

Like many women in Papua New Guinea, my family, my Church, my garden and my women's groups are the focus of my life. Unlike many women in my country, I have had a better education and more opportunities than many sisters my age. I have a grade ten education, business training, and have worked in three financial institutions in research, statistics and loan management. It is these skills that brought me to my Provincial Council of Women and that I now rely on as President of the National Council of Women of Papua New Guinea. The National Council of Women is the voice and lobby group of women in Papua New Guinea.

Although I cannot speak on behalf of other Pacific nations, I know we have much in common. Each of us wants a nuclear free Pacific. Each of us wants development that respects our cultures and our environment. Each of us wants our children to grow up happy and healthy and in an environment where human dignity and spiritual values flourish.

We realise the speedy trend of changes in our region and also the influence and vast unfavourable impact it brings, and we feel that our contribution to development in the Pacific is vital. The women in Papua New Guinea are caught between two extreme worlds due to contact with new changes.

The first contact with the white man in many areas of Papua New Guinea was less than 30 years ago. In some remote areas, it was less than 10 years ago. Yet Papua New Guinea has been forced into the world economy. We depend on world markets for our coffee, copra, cocoa and our gold. We have to have modern financial systems to get loans. Our children want coca cola and lollypops because they see them on videos and television. Our university has to produce lawyers who can negotiate contracts so that Papua New Guinean landowners are not easily victimised.

The pace of change in Papua New Guinea is not comfortable. It is fast ... often, too fast. Some days we feel that change is nearly as violent as a fist in the face. Is this familiar to you?

All this change can be exhausting. It can hurt. But I also know that Papua New Guineans are accepting the fact that change is inevitable.

Where does all this leave women? Hiding in the villages? Timidly walking in their husband's shadow as men tackle change? No. Not in Papua New Guinea, and I hope not in my Pacific neighbouring countries.

Women must be in the forefront of change. Our leadership is more critical than ever before because there is so much change. Women can either gain or lose much more in a much shorter time than ever before.

The cost of change is high in Papua New Guinea. Divorce rates are on the increase. So are rapes and brutal gang rapes. It seems that as every month passes, we have more wife beating, more alcoholism, and more prostitution. Sexual diseases are on the rise. Recently AIDS was diagnosed in our country.

Much of this social turmoil is linked to the pressures of change. The growth of cities, the exposure to Western video and store goods, and development projects are ripping apart many villages. Many men and women find their roles have changed. They don't have the status in the community they traditionally had. Many young people are rejecting traditional village life but end up bitter, poor and jobless in the cities.

Having said this, I must put my words into context. We, in Papua New Guinea, think we are facing a social crisis; traditional and family values are breaking down. But in fairness to my country and to you, we know we are just entering the social transition that comes with forced development.

It gives me little consolation to realise that the road to economic development will be accompanied by ugly stresses on our families, our countries and the Pacific.

Although social problems are a reality, the women of Papua New Guinea are not willing to let those negative aspects of change occur without a fight. Our women are uniting to reduce the social disruption as much as possible.

The Church groups, the National Council of Women, and the Women's Division of the National Government are waging a frontal attack. We have developed Papua New Guinea's first national women's policy to give women a more significant role in Papua New Guinea's development. The Prime Minister and National Cabinet will, I hope, approve it soon.

We are demanding action against rape, wife beating, prostitution and other issues. Papua New Guinea women are developing detailed action plans on each of these issues for Government and community groups.

The formulation of strategic plans and actions has been the result of hard learning and experiences over a long time. We have realised and learnt that the road to achievement and meaningful changes is mutual understanding and co-operation among women leaders, decision makers and implementors. However, this seems to be a difficult task to learn in Papua New Guinea.

We have also had to learn that we have to change as individuals before we can change as a nation. That means women have to be courageous, to take a stand, to enter political and other decision-making bodies. We have to assert our rights, starting in our families and in our communities.

When I say this, I am not calling for confrontation with men, nor am I saying that women should strike out alone. What I am saying is that women have the ability to assert their equal rights to be full partners with men in marriage and outside the home. Our challenge is to gain equality without intimidating or threatening men. It isn't easy now and it won't become easier as time goes on.

We can't keep postponing the effort. In fact, the longer we wait to establish our rights and our role, the harder it will be. The perfect time for women to show leadership is now - when there is much change. If we let our social and economic environment change without having input, then the results of change will be unbalanced.

I have a vision for Papua New Guinean women: 'To see an increased participation of women as beneficiaries and agents in the development process and improvement in the quality of life of all'.

Women are the protectors of values. We are our children's first and most important teachers and nurses. Let's find the self confidence to assert ourselves in our families, our Pacific community and in the world.

AIDS AND SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASES IN THE PACIFIC ISLANDS

(Paper presented to the Workshop on Health by Ms Denise DeRoeck, SPC)

Introduction

Sex-related issues, especially sexually-transmitted diseases (STDs) and teenage pregnancy, were discussed as major health concerns to women during the last regional women's conference held in the Cook Islands in 1985. People see these as growing problems in the Pacific island region and are beginning to talk about them more openly than before. The health section of the SPC has decided to address the issue of STDs again at this year's women conference for several reasons. First, since 1985, the problem of STDs has continued to grow worse in several countries in the region. In addition, we have also been learning more and more about how dangerous these diseases are for women and their infants. And finally, since the last conference, a new, deadly disease - AIDS - has been introduced into the region and poses a serious threat to both men and women in Pacific island countries. We will begin with AIDS, since it is a frightening new disease which many people still don't know a lot about.

AIDS

What is AIDS?

AIDS stands for 'Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome'. Our body has a natural defence (or immune) system which attacks germs and helps protect us from many diseases. AIDS is caused by a virus, called HIV (Human Immuno Deficiency Virus), which destroys a person's immune system, thus leaving him or her unprotected against diseases.

There are several stages of AIDS:

- the *acute stage* - when the person is first infected. He or she may be ill for several days with diarrhoea, fever, swollen glands, etc., although many people infected have no symptoms at this stage;
- the *incubation period* which can last from 3 months to several years. The disease goes 'underground' and the infected person feels fine;
- '*AIDS-related complex*' (ARC) in which the person suffers from persistent fever, diarrhoea, weight loss and swollen glands;
- *AIDS* - the patient's defence system is so weakened that he becomes very ill with pneumonia, intestinal problems, cancers (especially a skin cancer called 'kaposi sarcoma') or other diseases. Most patients in the final stage usually die within two years.

There is no cure for AIDS, although there are now drugs that slow down the progress of the virus. Once the virus enters your body, it remains there for the rest of your life. Researchers are desperately working to make a vaccine against AIDS, and some are being experimented on right now. However, it will probably be at least 10 years before an effective vaccine will be available to the general public.

Is there really a world-wide AIDS epidemic?

In 1980 and 1981, doctors in the U.S. began seeing several men who were very ill. They soon realised that this was a new disease. Within a short time, more and more cases of this disease were being reported in the United States. Figure 1 shows how the epidemic in the United States has progressed in less than ten years.

By 1985, cases were being reported in Latin America, Europe, and in several African countries. As seen in Figure 2, the number of countries reporting AIDS has climbed rapidly, demonstrating that the epidemic is world-wide. The number of new AIDS cases reported from around the world has also climbed dramatically from around 7,000 in 1984 to over 35,000 in 1987 (Figure 3). The true number of AIDS cases is probably two or three times more than the reported number, especially in Africa and Latin America, because of misdiagnosis and under-reporting. The number of people infected with the virus is now estimated at 5 to 10 million persons world-wide.

Why is AIDS spreading so quickly?

Researchers believe that the HIV virus which causes AIDS has been around for several years - at least since the 1970's. Back in the 1970's and early 80's before the disease was discovered, people infected with the virus were unknowingly spreading the infection to other people through sexual contact.

The number of AIDS cases has risen so rapidly in recent years because people infected in the past are only now becoming ill with the disease, since it often takes several years for infected people to get AIDS. In one African city, soon after the first case of AIDS was diagnosed, over half of prostitutes were found to be already infected when their blood was tested! As the head of the World Health Organization has said 'AIDS has stolen a march upon us, for it spread silently and widely before we even knew of its existence or its cause'.¹ The number of reported cases has also increased because doctors have learned to diagnose the disease better and because countries are now reporting the disease more openly than in the past.

For every case of AIDS, there are probably 50 to 100 people who are already infected with the virus, but who do not yet have the disease. Most of these people will eventually become ill with the disease and die. As seen in Figure 4, a country with 100 AIDS cases today will have 500-1,500 more cases in the next five years. Therefore, the number of AIDS cases throughout the world will continue to climb for several years.

¹World Health Magazine, WHO, March 1988, p.3.

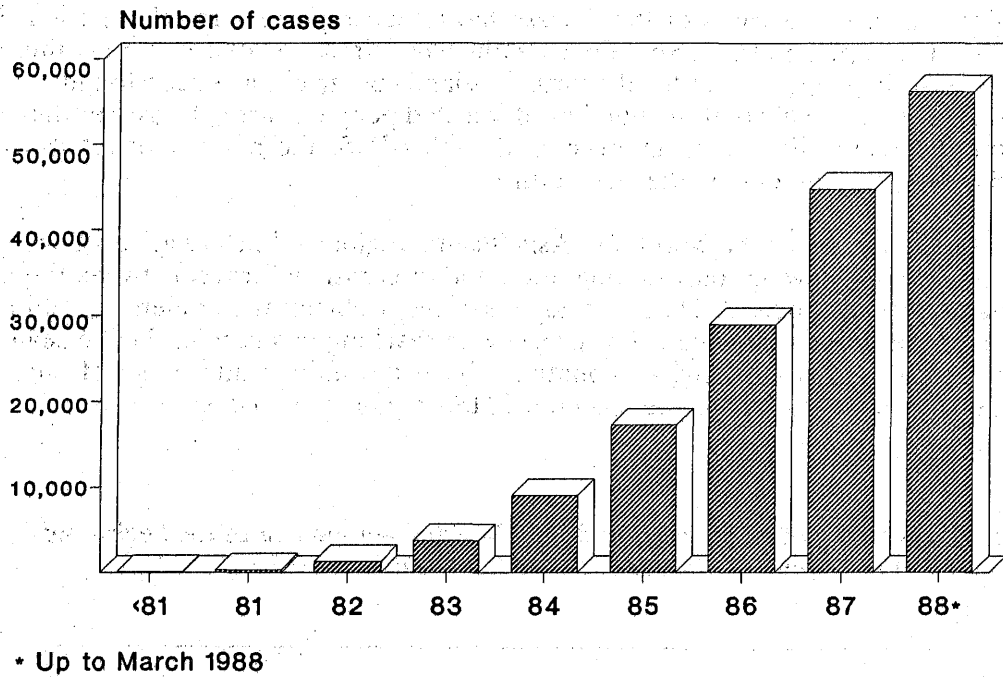


Figure 1: Cumulative number of reported cases of AIDS in the United States.

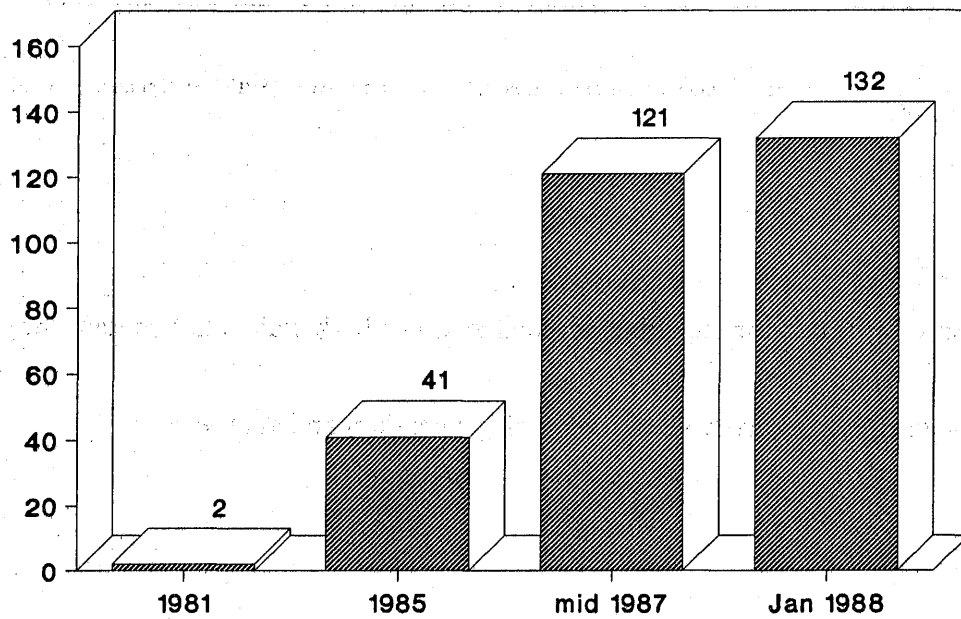


Figure 2: Number of countries reporting cases of AIDS.

Will AIDS reach the Pacific island region?

AIDS has already come to the Pacific. There have been several hundred cases in Australia. In the Pacific islands, at least 13 cases of the disease have been reported, mostly in countries having strong ties with Europe and the USA. Four deaths have already occurred among these cases. In addition, at least 68 people tested for the virus in island countries have been found to be infected (see Table 1). It is very likely that the number of infected people is actually greater than this. Since many of these carriers will eventually become ill with AIDS, the number of AIDS cases in the Pacific will continue to increase in the near future.

Compared to other parts of the world, the Asia/Pacific region still has relatively few AIDS cases. However, because of growing tourism, migration and international travel between the islands and metropolitan countries where AIDS is already a serious problem, the epidemic could arrive here also. But, because of the epidemic's slow progress in reaching this region, Pacific islands nations, unlike the United States and African countries, have the unique advantage of having time to prepare ahead to prevent a wide-scale epidemic in this region, *if we act now*.

Table 1: Number of AIDS cases and HIV-infected persons since the beginning of the epidemic* in the Pacific Island region

Country	AIDS cases	AIDS deaths	Additional HIV-infected persons
French Polynesia	3	2	43
Guam	6	?	7
Marshall Islands	0	0	1
New Caledonia	2	1	17
Papua New Guinea	1	-	?
Tonga	1	1	?

* Reported to the South Pacific Epidemiological and Health Information Services (SPEHIS). Updated as of August 1988.

How do you get AIDS?

AIDS can only be spread through blood, sexual or other body fluids that contain the virus. There are 3 ways of getting AIDS:

- 1) through sex, particularly sex without using a condom and anal sex;

- 2) through **blood** from:
- *blood transfusions* with contaminated blood,
 - *sharing needles* among IV drug users,
 - using *unsterilised needles* for injections, tattooing, piercing ears, etc.,
- 3) through **perinatal transmission** from an infected mother to her infant during pregnancy, during birth or perhaps after birth through breastfeeding.

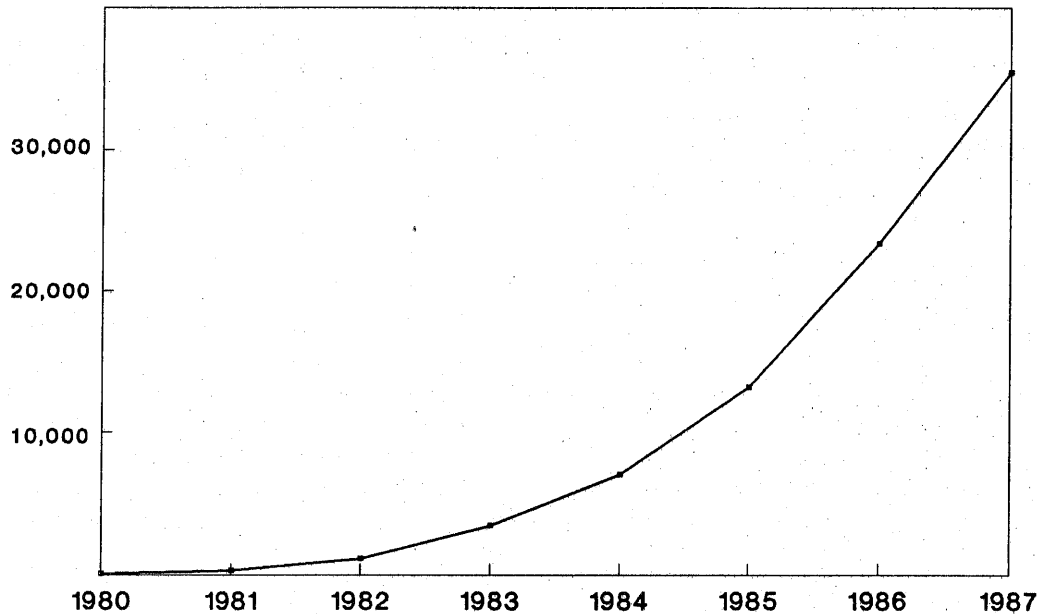


Figure 3: Number of new AIDS cases reported each year throughout the world.

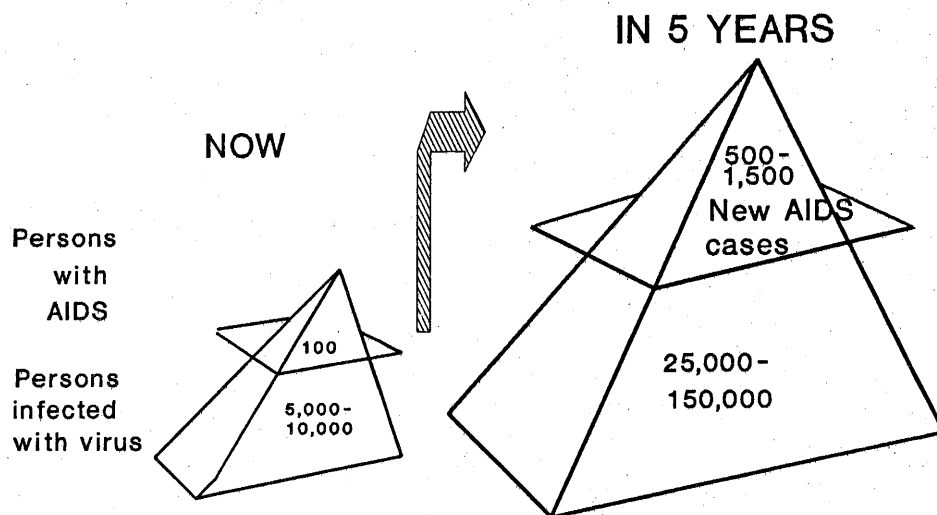


Figure 4: The increase of AIDS cases over time.

By far the most common way to contract AIDS is through sexual contact. Blood transfusions have also caused many cases of the disease, particularly before 1985 in industrialised countries, when blood screening for the HIV virus began, and in countries where blood screening is still not done routinely. Over half of the HIV-infected people tested in French Polynesia (15/29) in 1986-87 had blood transfusions in France before 1985 or are the sexual partners of transfusion patients.

Needle sharing among drug abusers is becoming a major cause of the disease in areas like New York City, where drug abuse is a big problem. It is also the major way in which the disease is spreading to women in industrialised countries. Transmission from mother to infant is a major cause of the disease in Africa, where more and more babies are being born each year with AIDS.

Since the epidemic began, there have been many myths and misconceptions about how the AIDS virus is spread. Some people believe that you can get AIDS from being close to people infected with the virus or from mosquitoes. These beliefs are *not true*. The AIDS virus *cannot* be spread through water, food, insects, toilet seats, clothes, telephones, or from close contact (non-sexual) with HIV-infected people. Therefore, it is much easier to protect yourself from AIDS than it is from many other infectious diseases, such as malaria, measles or hepatitis.

Can women get AIDS?

Many people believe that only homosexual men or IV drug users can get AIDS. Although most AIDS cases in Europe, Australia and the United States are among these groups, in Africa and the Caribbean, as many women as men have caught the disease, mostly from sexual contact. In some African cities, more than 10 per cent of pregnant women tested were found to be infected. Researchers believe, in fact, that the virus passes more easily from men to women than from women to men. Some believe the pattern of spread in Asia and the Pacific will be more like the African pattern than the pattern in Europe and the U.S.; that is, a lot of spread to women through sexual contact and from pregnant women to their infants.

How can women protect themselves from AIDS?

Women can protect themselves from AIDS by avoiding certain forms of behaviours, such as casual sex and unprotected sex (not using a condom). To prevent AIDS, women should:

- have sexual relations with only *one partner* - husband or boyfriend, and not with many different men;
- *know your partner well* and avoid relations with men who have or have had lots of sexual relations or relations with prostitutes;
- practice '*safer sex*', that is, use a condom;
- *not* use illegal intra-venous (IV) drugs;
- when getting injections, make sure that *disposable* needles and syringes are used;

- if you need a blood transfusion, make sure the donated blood has been screened for AIDS.

In following these rules, women protect themselves from other sexually-transmitted diseases (STDs), such as syphilis and gonorrhoea, and from other blood-transmitted diseases such as hepatitis B, as well as from AIDS. Being infected with other STDs, especially those that cause genital sores (ulcers), increases the risk of infection with AIDS, since the sores allow the virus to pass more easily into the blood system. We will now turn our attention to STDs, which are a serious and growing problem in the Pacific island region.

Sexually transmitted diseases (STDs)

What are STDs?

There are more than 20 different sexually transmitted diseases. Three common ones are gonorrhoea, syphilis and chlamydia. Other STDs include herpes simplex, genital warts, trichomonas, chancroid and hepatitis B, which can be transmitted sexually as well as in other ways.

STDs are particularly dangerous to women since they can often be infected without having any noticeable signs or symptoms. Women with gonorrhoea or chlamydia may experience pain when urinating or unusual vaginal discharge, but up to 60 per cent of women have no detectable signs. Syphilis may produce a genital sore or a skin rash in its early stages, but it may also be symptomless for years, until it begins to attack the body's organs. Though these diseases are often 'silent' in women, their symptoms are usually much more noticeable in men, who are thus more likely than women to seek treatment before the diseases cause serious harm.

Why are STDs a concern to women?

If the symptoms of many STDs are so mild in women, especially at first, why should women be so concerned? It is because the *consequences* of these diseases can be very serious and often much more so in women than in men. As seen Table 2, gonorrhoea and chlamydia often cause pelvic inflammatory disease (PID) when the infection spreads to the uterus, tubes or ovaries. The tubes often become blocked, causing infertility or tubal pregnancy. PID can also lead to a life-threatening infection called peritonitis or to an infection of the uterus, which requires a hysterectomy to save woman's life. Because gonorrhoea, chlamydia and PID can occur unnoticed, women often do not discover that they've been infected until they have a tubal pregnancy or find out they are infertile.

Syphilis is a very serious disease, which, left untreated, can attack major organs and systems of the body, causing blindness, insanity, diseases of the heart, blood vessels, brain, bone or skin. These diseases often occur many years after the person becomes infected, and usually result in death.

Having a sexually transmitted disease while pregnant can cause serious problems for both the woman and her infant. STDs, especially syphilis, greatly increase the chances of a woman having a miscarriage, stillbirth or a premature birth. Gonorrhoea and chlamydia are known to cause conjunctivitis in newborns, which can lead to blindness. Infants infected with chlamydia from their mothers can develop pneumonia, whereas those infected with herpes have a high risk of being brain damaged or dying in infancy. Congenital syphilis (syphilis in newborns) is a horrible condition which also usually leads to an early death.

Herpes and some kinds of congenital warts are also believed to increase the risk of getting cervical cancer. In several Pacific countries, including Fiji, New Caledonia and Papua New Guinea, cervical cancer is the most common type of cancer in women.

Can sexually transmitted diseases be cured?

Fortunately, many STDs, including gonorrhoea, syphilis and chlamydia, can be completely cured with penicillin or other antibiotics. However, strains of the gonorrhoea organism which are resistant to penicillin are common in parts of the Pacific, including Fiji, and require much greater doses or the use of more expensive drugs to cure. Infant conjunctivitis is also easily prevented by applying an antiseptic or antibiotic to a newborn's eyes. Unfortunately, hospitals in some Pacific island countries no longer do this on a routine basis.

There are, however, no vaccines that prevent STDs with the exception of Hepatitis B, and the body does not build immunities against these diseases. Thus, people can get them again and again, even if they've been cured before. Each episode of STD increases a woman's risk of developing PID and having permanent damage. For other STDs, including herpes and AIDS, there is as yet no cure, except prevention.

Even though many STDs can be treated and cured, there are several reasons why women do not get appropriate treatment, even if they have noticeable symptoms. These reasons include:

- A lack of knowledge about STDs, what the signs are and what causes them;
- A lack of nearby medical workers, clinics, or the appropriate drugs, especially in rural areas and outer islands;
- The fact that women are often too ashamed to visit a doctor or clinic, especially in small communities where confidentiality is difficult;
- A lack of women doctors, whom many women patients would feel more comfortable going to see.

Table 2: Some known consequences of (untreated) sexually transmitted diseases

Disease	Possible condition	Possible consequences
Gonorrhoea Chlamydia	Pelvic inflammatory disease (PID)	Sterility Tubal pregnancy Death
	<i>During pregnancy:</i> Conjunctivitis of newborn Infant pneumonia (chlamydia only)	Infant blindness
Syphilis	Blindness Insanity Other diseases of major organs or body system	Death
	<i>During pregnancy:</i> Stillbirths or miscarriage Prematurity Congenital syphilis (syphilis in new born)	Infant death Early death
Herpes simplex	Cervical cancer	
	<i>During pregnancy:</i> Infant brain damage Infant death	
Genital warts	Cervical cancer	

What are risk factors for STDs?

The risk factors for STDs are similar to those for AIDS; that is, having sex with many different partners, having partners who have had many sexual relationships, and not using a condom during intercourse. For sexually active women, using an IUD (inter-uterine device) may also increase a woman's risk of getting PID, as bacteria or viruses can more easily travel up the string of the IUD into the uterus.

Are sexually transmitted diseases a problem in the Pacific islands?

There is a world-wide epidemic of STDs and the Pacific island region has not escaped this epidemic. Gonorrhoea is the second or third most commonly reported notifiable disease in several countries in the region, often only behind influenza and diarrhoea or other common illnesses. Table 3 shows case rates of gonorrhoea and syphilis for 1986 and 1987 for several Pacific island countries. One can see that the rates in several countries are close (or greater) to the rates in the U.S, where STDs are considered a major problem. The reader must be aware that the quality of disease reporting in a country, as well as the actual incidence rates, affect the rates of these diseases.

Table 3: Incidence rates of syphilis and gonorrhoea for 1986-87

Country	Gonorrhoea		Syphilis	
	Number of cases per year *	Case rate** per 1 000	Number of cases per year *	Case rate** per 1 000
Fiji	1 428	2.0	550	0.8
New Caledonia	488	3.2	380	2.5
Marshall Islands	211	5.7	448	12.0
Palau	155	11.9	-	-
French Polynesia	554	3.2	27	0.15
Federated States of Micronesia	228	2.3	-	-
Guam***	468	4.0	-	-
American Samoa	77	2.1	-	-
Papua New Guinea	22 068	6.4	8 365	2.4
Solomon Islands	271	0.9	-	-
United States		4.7		0.13

* Average number for 2 year period.

** Average annual incidence rate for 2 year period.

*** Using a monthly average when data not complete for all months.

The actual number of cases of gonorrhoea and syphilis is likely to be much greater - 5 or even 10 times - than the reported number of cases. This is because women often do not realise they are infected, and because people who are too ashamed to go to a clinic often try to cure themselves with medicines or visit traditional healers instead. Many patients also go to private doctors, who do not always report cases to public health departments. Furthermore, other STDs, such as chlamydia, which may be quite common, are not even reported to public health authorities. In Fiji, for instance over half of pregnant women tested in recent years were found to have chlamydia!²

² From 'Sexually transmitted disease in Fiji', paper presented by Fijian Delegation to WHO/Australian inter-regional ministerial meeting on AIDS, Sydney, July 1987.

The results of the SPC 1985 Women's Health Survey in the Marshall Islands may show a truer picture, since the survey did not depend on women reporting their diseases³ (Table 4). Over seven per cent of women aged 15-49 tested positive for syphilis, which is an extremely high rate, and is probably related to the syphilis epidemic the Republic experienced in 1984. Note that the rates in the urban areas of Majuro and Ebeye were more than double the rate in the rural atolls of Ailinglaplap and Wotje.

PID and other complications caused by STDs are also probably common in many areas of the Pacific. The Marshall Islands survey found a very high stillbirth rate - 35 per 1,000 total births - and this may be related in part to the high syphilis rates in these islands. Doctors in the Cook Islands report that infertility is a common problem in women⁴, and this is probably true in other Pacific islands as well.

The problem of STDs seems to be growing worse in many countries in the region. Figure 5 shows the increase in the number of reported cases of syphilis in Fiji between 1975 and 1984. Although some of this increase is due simply to the growth in Fiji's population during this period, it is also true that the syphilis rate increased an average of 22 per cent per year during this time.

Table 4: Proportion of women 15-49 years who tested positive for syphilis, Marshall Islands women's health survey 1985*

Age (years)	Majuro		Ebeye		Ailinglaplap and Wotje	
	Number tested	Percent positive	Number tested	Percent positive	Number tested	Percent positive
15-19	116	12.1	79	16.5	26	7.7
20-24	115	9.6	138	12.3	34	5.9
25-29	109	6.4	99	3.0	27	-
30-34	84	2.4	102	4.9	16	-
35-39	56	5.4	79	1.3	9	-
40-44	36	11.1	44	9.1	5	-
45-49	30	3.3	31	-	4	-
Total	546	7.7	572	7.5	121	3.3

* Using RPR test for treponemal infections.

³Levy S., *et al*, Marshall Islands women's health survey 1985, *Technical Paper No. 196*, South Pacific Commission, Noumea, New Caledonia (Forthcoming)

⁴From: Washington, A.E. and Underman, A.E. *Report on sexually transmitted disease in the Cook Islands*, South Pacific Commission, 1981.

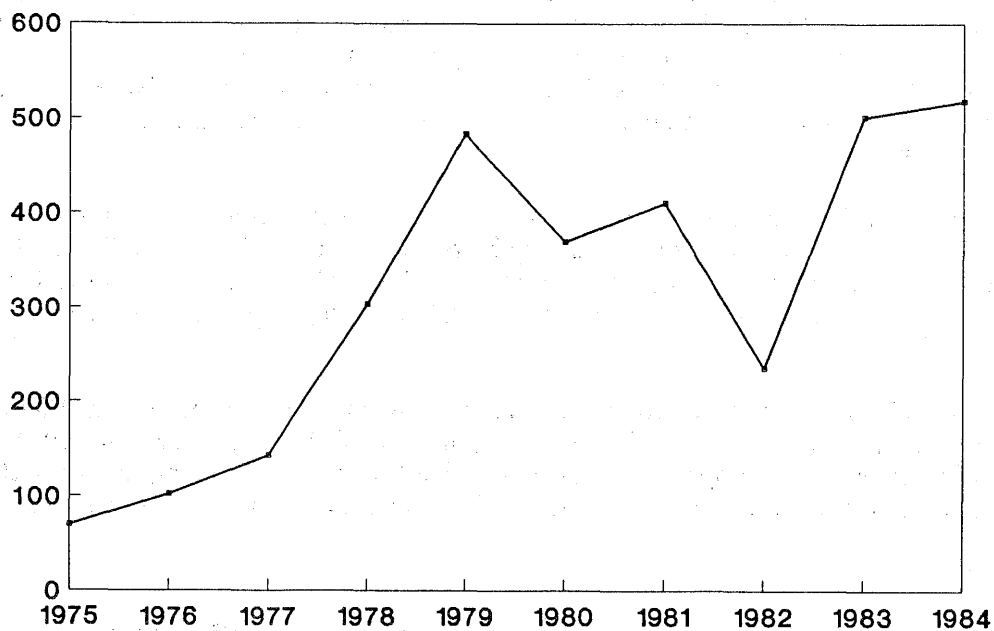


Figure 5: Reported cases of syphilis in Fiji.

Sexually transmitted diseases are most common in young people (aged 15-24) and in urban areas. The growth in the young population in the Pacific and the growing migration from rural areas to towns are two main reasons why STD rates have increased so much in recent years. Young people who move to towns often have much greater sexual freedom than in rural areas, where traditions, including sexual taboos, remain strong. Greater contact with western culture (through movies, magazines, tourists, etc.), with its notions of sexual freedom and romantic love, plus a sense of loneliness and up-rootedness, are other reasons people give for the high rates of STDs in urban areas in the Pacific. The increase in rates may also be partly due to improved reporting of STDs in some countries.

Stopping the spread of STDs and AIDS

How can we control the spread of STDs and AIDS in the Pacific?

At present, several Pacific Island countries have health clinics with laboratory support, where people can be tested and treated for STDs. Some countries have also printed brochures and posters explaining about these diseases. However, few nations, if any, have well-organised, comprehensive STD prevention and control programmes which seriously attack this problem and reach into local communities. This is beginning to change, however, as governments become more and more concerned with the spread of AIDS, and as international agencies, such as the World Health Organization, assist countries to develop AIDS prevention programmes. Several Pacific island countries have recently developed comprehensive plans for AIDS prevention and control. If the control of STDs is combined with AIDS prevention programmes, nations propelled to act by the AIDS scare may begin to effectively control the existing and growing problem of STDs.

An STD/AIDS control programme should include:

- *Blood screening* all of donated blood for AIDS and syphilis.
- *Pre-natal screening* of all pregnant women for syphilis, gonorrhoea, chlamydia, AIDS and other STDs.
- *Testing and treatment for STDs in primary health care clinics.* Special STD clinics are not a good idea, since many people, especially women, are too ashamed to visit them.
- *Tracing of contacts*, in which sexual partners of STD patients are contacted and urged to get treatment, even if they have no symptoms. This is especially important for women, since they are often unaware that they have a sexually transmitted disease.
- A programme to *control drug abuse* in areas where this is a problem.
- An extensive *public education programme* to inform people about STDs and AIDS. This is the most important part of any control programme and the only way to prevent incurable diseases such as AIDS. It is also where women's groups can be most active and effective.

What does an effective STD/AIDS education programme involve?

Each country needs to develop its own STD education programme, with messages and activities appropriate and acceptable to the particular culture. However, clear, understandable messages are a key to effective programmes, even in societies where sexual matters are never discussed in public or even in private. A good place to start in developing a programme is to find out just what people's (especially young people's) beliefs and attitudes are concerning sex, STDs, condom use, etc; and how they feel about talking about these issues.

Since we are trying to change people's sexual behaviour - never an easy task - an effective STD education programme must be comprehensive, well-planned and heavily involve the local communities. A comprehensive approach involves:

1. Setting up *specific goals and objectives* to help determine which activities to carry out. Examples of goals are: to increase young people's knowledge about how STDs/AIDS are spread, and to get people to have one steady partner.
2. Having specific activities and programmes for different '*target groups*'. There may be certain activities especially for school children, others for international travellers, prostitutes, homosexuals, etc., and the general public. Educating political leaders to convince them that there's a STD problem and a potential problem with AIDS may be the place to begin.

3. *Involving all kinds of different groups* in planning and carrying out educational activities. These groups may include church leaders, youth groups, teachers, parents, traditional midwives, women's groups, etc. The more parents and other local people are actively involved in educational activities, the greater the chance that these programmes will be accepted by the community and that the right message will reach the people they are intended for.
4. Reaching the target groups through *outreach*, that is, going to where they are. An effective way to reach sexually active youth may be to pass out brochures and posters in discos, bars, pool halls - wherever they hang out. Other outreach activities may include educational talks to sailors at military camps and seaports, and individual counselling to prostitutes in the streets. Radio programmes and messages are very effective for reaching large numbers of the public.

Table 5 gives examples of possible goals and activities for a STD/AIDS education programme.

It is much easier to suggest educational activities to control STDs than it is to actually carry them out. In the Pacific islands, as elsewhere, cultural attitudes and traditions can easily stand in the way of enacting active and effective education programmes. In many Pacific island countries, there are strong religious and cultural taboos against talking openly about sexual matters. Traditional languages may also pose problems; in the formal Samoan language, for instance, there are no clear, specific terms for the genital organs. Common beliefs that only prostitutes and homosexuals get STDs and that talking about sex only encourages young people to be sexually active must also be overcome. In many cultures, men have poor attitudes about using condoms, which they find unpleasurable and which they associate with prostitution.

The low status of women in many cultures also makes it difficult to change people's sexual behaviour. Poor attitudes towards women can encourage men to have extra-marital affairs. In traditional cultures where women are taught to be passive, agreeable and non-assertive, especially with men, saying 'no' to men's sexual advances can be no easy task. And as one author has said, never under-estimate the difficulty for women to ask men to use a condom.

Table 5: Possible activities for a STD/AIDS education programme

Goals	Activities
To inform young people about sex, STD/AIDS, their risk factors, signs, symptoms etc.	<p>Introduce sex education into primary and secondary school curriculum, with modules on STDs/AIDS</p> <p>Distribute informational posters, pamphlets, etc. in discos, bars, hotels, etc.</p> <p>Organise STDs/AIDS seminars for youth groups, church groups, army camps, etc.</p> <p>Set up puppet shows, comic plays etc. to inform children about STDs/AIDS in an interesting way.</p>
To increase public awareness and knowledge about STD/AIDS	<p>Organise radio and TV publicity campaign, using local personalities, national celebrities, (singers etc.) to spread the message on STDs/AIDS prevention</p> <p>Distribute brochures written in local languages through the post, churches, health centres etc.</p> <p>Hold seminars/workshops for traditional birth attendants, healers, community health workers, etc. so they can spread the message on preventing STDs</p>
To increase use of condoms among sexually active young people	<p>Get governments to change laws that restrict condom sales; encourage shops to openly sell and display condoms</p> <p>Set up condom vending machines out of doors in towns in convenient places (at seaports, near hotels, discos etc.)</p> <p>Develop instruction cards on how to use condoms and prevent STDs/AIDS, to be distributed with every package of condoms (idea proposed by Vanuatu)</p>
To decrease the incidence of repeat infection among STD	<p>One-on-one counselling at health clinics for all STDs patients</p> <p>Have educational pamphlets distributed at health clinics, doctors' offices, etc., for all STDs patients</p>
To inform international travellers of the dangers and risks of STDs and AIDS	<p>Have travel agents distribute STDs/AIDS information pamphlets with each plane or boat ticket</p> <p>Distribute STD/AIDS information to all nationals returning from overseas</p>

The role of women's groups

Women's organisations can play a vital role in initiating STD prevention and treatment programmes and in encouraging governments to act. In several countries women's groups have proved to be effective and powerful in promoting a cause. In Western Samoa, for instance, the wives of village chiefs have formed women's committees, which the head of public health claims are responsible for the high coverage (85-90%) of child immunisation in that country. Women are often very skilled at reaching the household level. In many cultures, only women can effectively discuss sex-related issues with other women and encourage them to stand up for themselves. Since it is women who suffer the most from unprotected sexual activity, through teenage pregnancy, sexually transmitted diseases and their complications, it is women who will probably have to be the leaders for action in the prevention and control of STDs and AIDS.

Some questions to ask yourselves when developing programmes and activities against STDs/AIDS

- How can we get political, religious and other leaders to act on an issue often associated with immorality and shame? How do we convince them that there is a problem?
- How do people in my culture learn about sex and sex-related matters? How did I learn about sex?
- Can I discuss sex-related issues with my children? If not, who can?
- Will it be possible to openly promote 'safer sex' and the use of condoms in my culture? If not, what other realistic measures can we take to stop the spread of STDs and AIDS?

Whom can we contact for assistance?

South Pacific Commission
B.P. D5
Noumea Cedex
New Caledonia

PHONE: 26 20 00
TELEX: 3139 NM SOPACOM
FAX: 263818

WHO liaison officer in your country, or:

World Health Organization
United Nations Ave
P.O. Box 2932
Manila 2801
Philippines

United Nations Population Fund
Private Mail Bag
Suva
Fiji

International Planned Parenthood Foundation
P.O. Box 759 Inner Circle
Regent's Park
London NW1 4LQ
England

TELEX: 919573 IPEPEEG

ALCOHOL AND DRUG ABUSE IN THE PACIFIC: THE IMPACT ON WOMEN

Paper presented to the Workshop on Health by Denise DeRoeck, SPC

Introduction

In Palau the National Congress has declared that alcohol abuse and related problems are one of the top three major problems facing the country. In Fiji, the increase in alcohol-related problems in recent years has been called a 'national epidemic'. Throughout most of the Pacific island region excessive drinking, mostly by men from their teens to their 30's, is being recognised as a serious and growing problem. The use of recreational drugs, including hard drugs such as heroin and cocaine, is also increasing in a number of Pacific island countries.

Because of the strong impact that men's alcohol abuse has on women and on the welfare and happiness of their families, Pacific island women have for years been at the forefront of raising awareness of this problem and in trying to combat it. The issue is discussed at every regional women's conference, including the Rarotonga conference held in March 1985. Since that time, the first Regional Conference on Alcohol-Related Problems was held in Noumea in late 1985 by the South Pacific Commission and the World Health Organization, with government representation from many Pacific island countries. We have decided to address the issue of alcohol and drug abuse at this conference once again, as the problem is continuing to increase in several areas in the region.

How great a problem is alcohol abuse in the Pacific islands?

Although good statistics on alcohol use and misuse are difficult to get in the Pacific, it is obvious to many people that the problem in many countries is very serious and it is growing at an alarming rate. For countries that have supplied information, statistics show that the total amount of alcohol imports per person has grown in several countries since the 1970's, in some cases quite dramatically (Figures 1 and 2). Though some of this increase may merely be due to substituting imported for locally-produced liquor and home brews, most people feel that the increase in alcohol abuse is real. The great rise in the average consumption of alcohol per person in Tonga tends to confirm this belief (Figure 3).

Most alcohol drinking in the Pacific is by men under 35 or 40 years who drink large amounts of beer or other spirits during week-end 'binges' with their friends or at parties and celebrations. Heavy drinking by Pacific island women is still unusual, although in some countries, more women are starting to drink alcohol on a regular basis*. Chronic alcoholism, in which people cannot live day-to-day without drinking, is relatively rare in this region. However, excessive drinking during binges causes serious problems to both the society at large and individual families.

* A survey in Saipan, Northern Mariana islands in 1978 found that 15% of high school girls surveyed drank alcohol weekly, and in a survey in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea in 1985, 13% of women questioned claimed to drink alcohol.

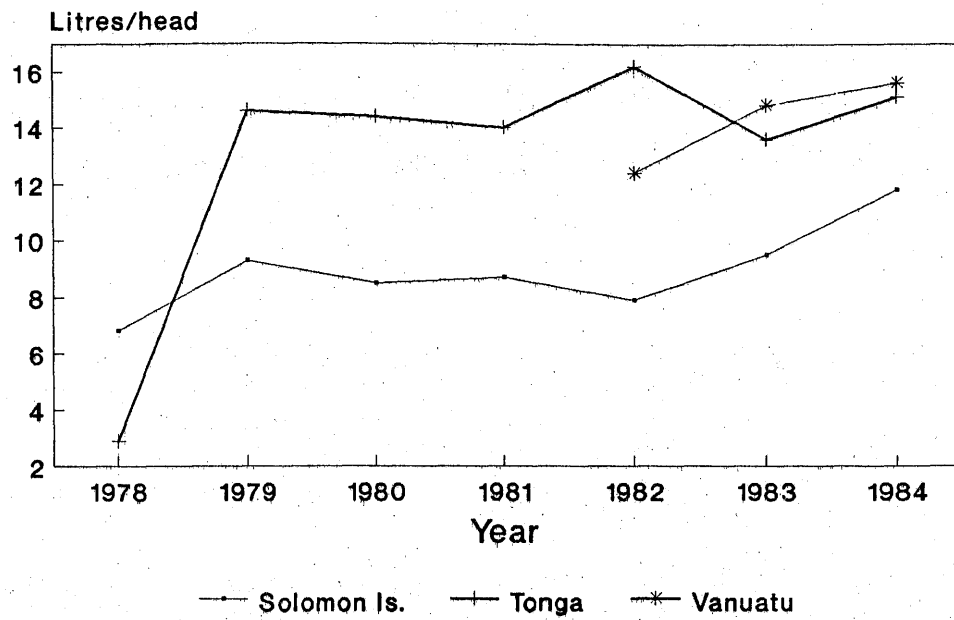
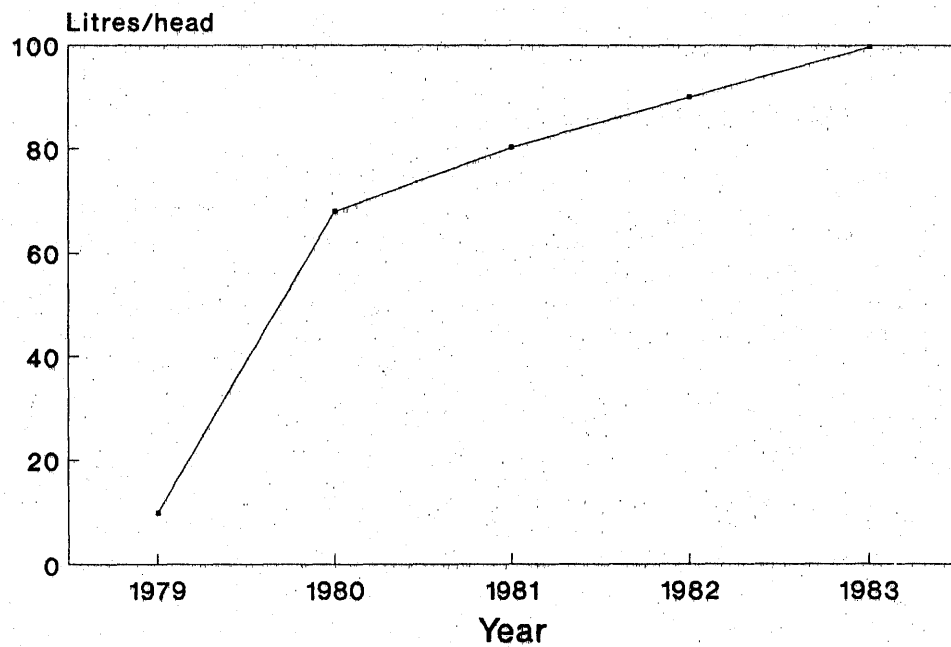


Figure 1: Alcohol imports per head in some Pacific island countries.



Figures unknown for 1982; an average of 1981 & 82 was used.

Figure 2: Alcohol imports per head in Palau.

Impact of alcohol abuse on society

- *Road accidents.* More than half of motor vehicle accidents in most Pacific island countries involve people who have been drinking alcohol. One survey in Papua New Guinea conducted in 1981 showed that 85% of drivers in accidents had been under the influence of alcohol. Deaths from road accidents are the second or third most common cause of death in many island countries.
- *Crime.* Many crimes, including disorderly conduct, fights, robberies, rape and even murder, are committed by people who have been drinking alcohol. Fiji reports that 50-60 per cent of its prison inmates had been drinking when they committed the crimes which landed them in prison. More than half of all police arrests in several countries involve the use of alcohol.
- *Injuries and other accidents.* Injuries from brawls and accidents commonly occur after drinking bouts. During one period in 1985 in Palau, nearly *three-quarters* of all the injuries treated in the hospital emergency room and out-patient departments were alcohol-related.³
- *Suicide.* This is a growing problem among young men in certain Micronesian islands and heavy alcohol drinking is involved in most cases.

In several Pacific island countries, the great increase in alcohol drinking has led to a sharp rise in these alcohol-related problems. Police arrests involving alcohol have been climbing in several countries, including arrests for drunk driving (Figure 4). In one year, in Port Vila, Vanuatu, the number of convicted cases of drunkenness rose from 37 to 131.⁴ And in Palau, the number of reported crimes and accidents more than doubled in one year.⁵

The costs of the problems caused by heavy drinking are high. Governments pay in terms of the extra police and court officers needed to deal with alcohol offenders, and for the costs of medical care and property damage caused by alcohol abuse. Women and their family pay in terms of the human suffering from alcohol-related deaths and serious family problems.

Family problems due to alcohol abuse: impact on women

The impact of men's excessive drinking on their wives and families is all too familiar to Pacific island women. Heavy drinking by men often leads to:

- Wife-beating and child abuse
- Desertion of the wife and family, divorce and family break-up
- Setting a poor example to children who see their fathers drink heavily
- Loss of husband's job and family's income due to poor work performance, absenteeism, etc.
- Family income being spent on alcohol, which in poor families, can lead to malnutrition in the children of heavy drinkers.

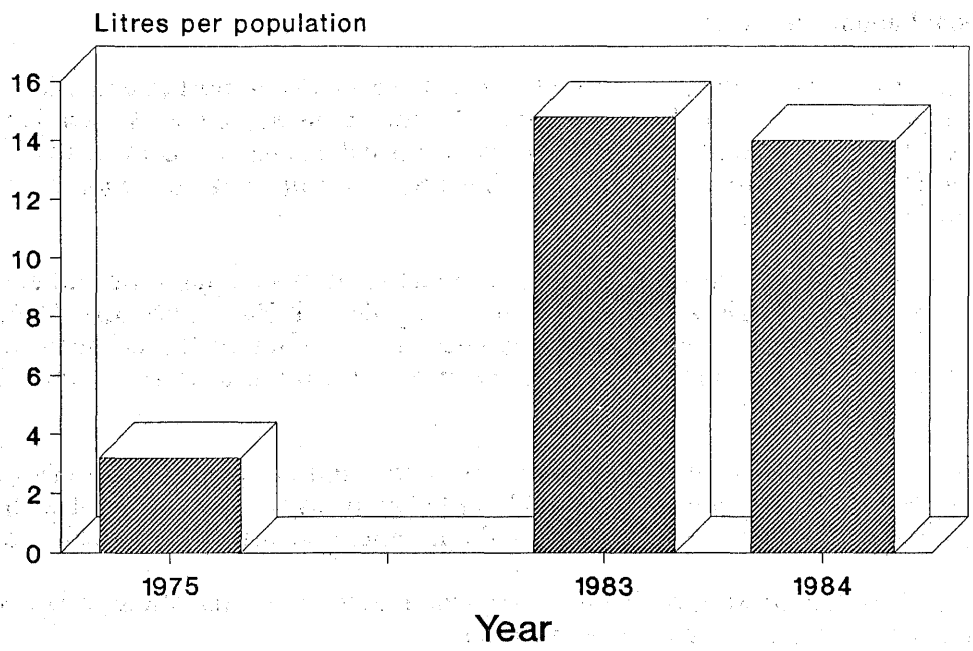


Figure 3: Alcohol consumption per person in Tonga.

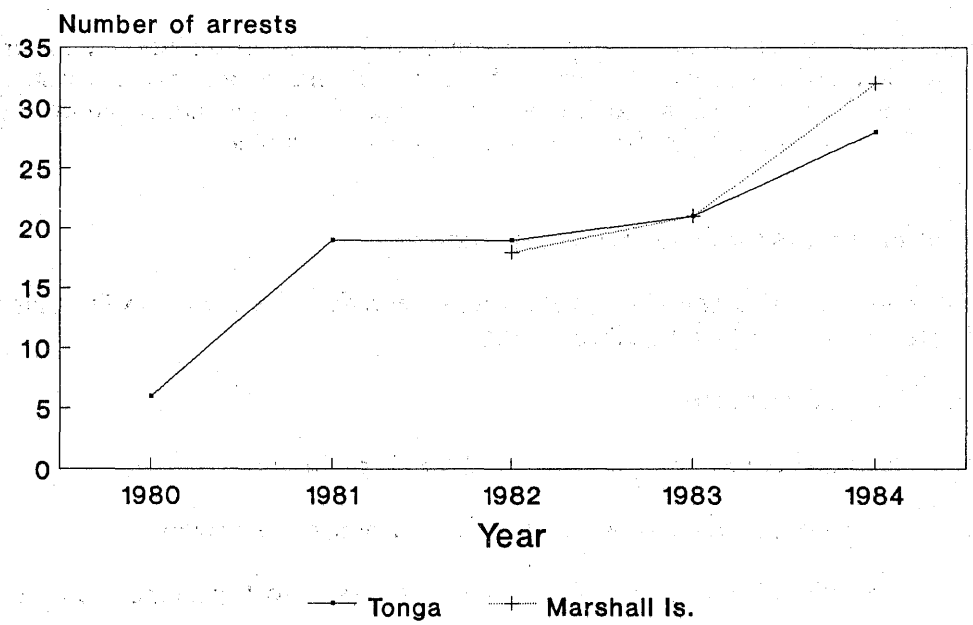


Figure 4: Drunk driving arrests in certain countries.

Many women in the Pacific and their families suffer these consequences of their husbands' and boyfriends' drinking. One report from American Samoa claims that 25-30 per cent of all Samoans suffer from a family member's alcohol abuse. Family violence and wife-beating, although not always due to alcohol use, are now being recognised as a serious and widespread problem in many Pacific island communities, and shelters for abused women have been built in some areas as a result. Given the devastating impact that men's drinking can have on their wives, it is little wonder that in the region, most demands for action to combat this problem have been made by women.

Drug use in the Pacific

Although the use of illegal drugs in the Pacific islands is, in general, less of a problem than it is in many metropolitan countries, its use has been growing in the region in recent years. Drugs that come into the Pacific from Asia on their way to North America and Australia are increasingly being dropped off and sold in the islands themselves. Marijuana is the most commonly used drug in the Pacific and is even being grown in certain countries. More disturbing is the use of hard drugs, including heroin in some countries, such as Guam, American Samoa and Palau. Although this problem has been steadily decreasing in Guam from the mid-70's, when there were around 2,000 hard drug users to less than 200 in 1985, Palau is currently experiencing an epidemic in the abuse of heroin which is injected into the blood (intra-venously). In the first ten months of last year, 42 cases were admitted to hospital for heroin use, up from 3 cases each in the 2 previous years. The intra-venous (IV) drug problem in Palau, which is mainly among men in their 20's and 30's, is undoubtedly greater than these numbers indicate, since not all drug abusers end up in hospital.

Why are alcohol and drug abuse increasing in the Pacific islands?

Alcohol and drug use and abuse are increasing in much of the world today and it is difficult to pinpoint the exact reasons for the increase in the Pacific island region. However, some reasons often given include:

- The increased availability of inexpensive alcohol and drugs in island countries
- Increasing migration to urban areas
- The growing influence of Western culture through tourism, films, TV, magazines, etc.
- Breakdown in traditional cultures and values (deculturalisation), particularly in countries with close ties to the U.S. and other metropolitan countries
- High unemployment among young people
- Lack of public education on the dangers of alcohol and drug abuse

What can be done to fight this growing problem?

Fighting alcohol and drug abuse requires attacking the problem on several different fronts simultaneously. A truly effective programme must involve:

- Educating the public on the dangers of alcohol and drug abuse through a comprehensive public education and awareness programme;
- Creating or tightening laws that restrict the availability of and access to alcohol and drugs;
- Increasing and strictly enforcing penalties for offences related to alcohol and drug use;
- Establishing and strengthening services that deal with alcohol and drug-related problems.

Examples of various measures that can be taken are given below. Some of these measures are currently in effect in certain areas, including Pacific island countries, and several are recommendations from the Noumea Conference held in 1985. Not all of these measures are considered effective, however. Strict laws for alcohol-related offences are often not enforced and measures to prohibit or limit alcohol sales are often ineffective or only lead to a boom in the production of home brews, such as bush beers and methylated spirits.

Measures to limit availability of and access to alcohol and drugs

- *Increase taxes on liquor to keep alcohol prices high.*
- *Set a pricing policy to prevent alcohol prices from dropping too low.*
- *Impose limits on the amount of alcohol imported into the country and the amount that can be produced locally.*
- *Control the number and location of stores, bars, etc. that sell alcohol by limiting the number of liquor licences.*
- *Enact laws to limit the hours and days alcohol can be sold.*
- *Set and enforce a minimum age for buying alcohol.*
- *Impose an identification (ID) card system to prevent the sale of alcohol to minors (as in the Marshall Islands).*
- *Require a permit to buy alcohol (as in Tonga).*
- *Encourage the substitution of low-alcohol content beverages for high-alcohol beverages through taxation and importation policies.*

Measures that strengthen laws and increase penalties for alcohol and drug-related offences

- *Enact laws against drinking and driving at the same time.*
- *Increase penalties and strictly enforce laws against drunk driving - e.g. immediately arresting drunk drivers, imposing heavy fines, revoking drivers' licences, etc.*
- *Increase penalties for drug dealing, illegal alcohol sales and other alcohol-related offences.*
- *Have police give breath or blood alcohol tests to all drivers in car accidents, to those suspected of drinking or randomly at road blocks.*
- *Establish a legal definition of intoxication (drunkenness) based on alcohol levels in blood or on breath.*
- *Prohibit bartenders and other selling alcohol from serving drunken customers and minors by revoking their liquor licences, imposing heavy fines, etc.*

Establishment of a public education and awareness programme on alcohol and drugs.

- *Include alcohol and drug education in primary and secondary school curricula.*
- *Conduct public awareness campaign on the dangers of alcohol/drug abuse and extent of the problem in your area - through radio, TV, meetings, seminars, printed materials, video tapes, puppet shows, etc.*
- *Establish a national day without alcohol.*
- *Educate bartenders and others who sell liquor on dangers of selling alcohol to minors and intoxicated people.*

Creation and strengthening of services that deal with alcohol and drug-related problems

- *Establish counselling and rehabilitation services for alcohol and drug abusers.*
- *Establish temporary shelters and other social services for abused women and children.*
- *Conduct training for police, health workers and others dealing with alcohol and drug abuse.*
- *Have assertiveness training programmes for women to learn to deal with alcohol-related violence and abuse.*

Other measures

- *Ban the advertising of alcoholic beverages.*
- *Ban the sponsorship of sporting and cultural events by those in the alcohol industry (importers, breweries, etc.).*
- *Impose limits on the spending of public funds for alcoholic drinks at public functions.*
- *Encourage the serving of non-alcoholic beverages at public functions, cultural events, etc.*

These actions cannot be enacted separately, but need to be part of a comprehensive, well co-ordinated programme that is managed and strongly supported by the government. An effective programme requires the active participation of many sectors of society, including the political leaders, the police and justice systems, traditional leaders, women's groups, the schools, parents, churches, youth groups, and so on. One way to ensure strong co-ordination and an active programme is to set up a national council or committee on alcohol and drug control, with representation from sectors that deal with alcohol-related problems (e.g. police, women's groups, health workers, parents). The New Zealand government has established such a council, which is funded by revenues from liquor taxes, and which advises the government on all alcohol-related laws and policies, in addition to co-ordinating its public education programme.

The key to preventing alcohol and drug abuse and misuse is *education*. A public education programme does not involve simply printing some posters or pamphlets warning of the dangers of alcohol and drug abuse, but consists of a comprehensive set of activities with clear objectives, targets, and the participation of a range of community groups and individuals. Ex-alcohol or drug offenders, for instance, can be very effective in educating youth on the dangers and consequences of excessive drinking or drug abuse. Examples of objectives geared towards specific target group are the following:

- To increase the awareness of *political leaders* of the extent of alcohol-related problems and their costs of society.
- To promote 'safe drinking' among *youth* by encouraging them not to drive when drunk and not to let intoxicated friends drive.
- To conduct alcohol education courses for *drunk driving offenders* as an early intervention measure.
- To sensitise *police* to the special problems of alcohol-related violence towards women.
- To teach *parents* how to prevent alcohol and drug abuse among their children in village workshops and seminars (idea from Guam).

Some constraints

Groups interested in establishing effective alcohol and drug programmes in the Pacific and elsewhere usually run into several obstacles and constraints. Among these are:

- The financial incentive of governments to encourage the sale of alcohol, since liquor taxes are an important source of revenue for many island governments.
- The wealth and power of the alcohol industry (breweries, importers, retailers) in influencing governments.
- The fact that alcohol has become an integral part of the culture in many Pacific island countries (particularly the male culture).
- The lack of awareness of the consequences of alcohol and drug abuse and the lack of good statistics on its use and the costs to society.
- The limited government budgets for health education and other human services programmes (although money from raising liquor taxes can be directed towards these services).

What local communities and women's groups can do

Community groups, including women's organisations, can be very effective in lobbying governments to change laws and policies related to alcohol and drug use, and to establish public education programmes. Local groups have also been effective in limiting alcohol abuse in their own communities. In Kiribati, for example, the traditional Unimane leaders in several islands have been successful in making their communities 'dry' by pressuring local governments to ban sale and importation of alcohol to their islands and by severely punishing alcohol abusers. In the Northern District of Vanuatu, due to pressure from local communities, the number of co-operative stores selling alcohol dropped from 75 in the mid 1970's to only one in 1982.⁶

Women's groups have been especially active in trying to curb excessive alcohol use in the Pacific. Women in Palau were able to establish a national prohibition in 1958, although the ban only lasted one year. Women's groups in parts of Papua New Guinea and other countries have for years been pressuring their governments to establish similar prohibition laws. One innovative local law pushed by women in the Highlands of Papua New Guinea allows the wives and families of men who spend too much of their household income on alcohol to forbid him from drinking for a period of time - usually 6 to 12 months.

A vivid example of how women can organise around this issue and make a real difference is shown by the group, Mothers Against Drunk Driving (M.A.D.D.) in the United States. This organisation, founded by women whose children were killed in alcohol-related road accidents, has been instrumental in raising the American public's awareness of the problem, mainly through media campaigns, and has pressured state and local governments to crack down on drunk drivers by enacting stricter anti-drunk driving laws, monitoring roads, randomly testing drivers for breath-alcohol content, and so forth.

The role of the South Pacific Commission

The South Pacific Commission responds to official requests from Pacific island governments through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In the area of alcohol and drug control, the SPC can:

- Assist in developing the alcohol and drug component of health education curricula for primary and secondary schools;
- Assist in designing and production alcohol and drug education materials (video, tapes, printed materials, etc.);
- Organise training courses in alcohol and drug education and control (e.g. biannual regional training course on drug identification and concealment methods);
- Collect alcohol and drug-related statistics and assist governments in improving their routine data collection or in conducting alcohol and drug-related surveys.

For more information, contact:

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WOMEN AND FOOD AND NUTRITION IN THE PACIFIC

(Paper presented to the Workshop on Health
by Jacqui Badcock, SPC Nutritionist)

The regional meetings of women's organisations held in Rarotonga in 1985 also had a workshop on women and health in the Pacific and many food and nutrition-related problems were identified. These were well summarised in the reports as follows:

Nutritional problems are many in the Pacific and vary in nature according to the type of island, extent of development, socio-economic conditions, etc. Continuing nutrition education for children and adults is necessary, although it was pointed out that most countries now have programmes of nutrition education. Many people have learnt the message, but change is slow in coming, often because of constraints in food supply and because people's poor nutritional habits are well established. Changing lifestyles have led to changes in diet, especially to store-bought foods that are often cheaper and are easier to prepare than traditional fresh foods but which lack sufficient nutrients. This is further compounded by the lack of fresh food supplies, which can also occur on high islands, especially in towns, as well as on atolls. Non-communicable diseases such as high blood pressure, diabetes and heart disease are on the rise in many countries and affect women as well as men. Obesity compounds these diseases, as does smoking and lack of exercise.

Anaemia amongst mothers and children is quite common and associated with worms and other parasitic infections. Problems with nutrition of infants (0-1 years of age) due primarily to weaning food difficulties (improper or unhygienic foods), or bottle-feeding instead of breast-feeding lead to diarrhoea and high infant mortality. In this regard, working mothers and their children are further penalised by inadequate maternity leave benefits as well as the lack of provision to continue to breast-feed babies while working.

In summary therefore, the three main areas of concern for women's nutritional health were and still are:

- high prevalence of anaemia in some groups
- high prevalence of obesity, diabetes and hypertension
- breast feeding and the health of mother and child.

As a result a series of recommendations were made relating to the improvement of the nutritional health of women, mothers and children and the key ones and activities in response to them are summarised here:

For the South Pacific Commission to continue to provide nutrition and health education support programmes for women in the region.

This is in support of the continuation of the SPC nutrition programme which was established in 1983 as a direct result of a recommendation from the women's meeting in Tahiti in 1981.

Activities in 1988 have mainly been a continuation of many already on-going activities. In particular there has been a good deal of activity on the community nutrition training project at USP. The Pacific Island Food Composition Project has commenced, although it is still not fully funded. A new position has also recently been created and filled to provide an assistant to the programme who will concentrate on information and clearinghouse services, publications and training. A new position for a research associate to assist with nutrition surveys and the development of national food and nutrition policy has also been created but has yet to be funded. Funding is currently being sought to hold the first-ever regional technical meeting for community nutritionists in 1988. Many of the activities listed support the recommendations listed below.

That governments and regional educational institutions encourage the development at regional and sub-regional level of non-formal courses in health and nutrition and other knowledge and skills relevant to community development. Such courses could then be effected at the national level through facilities such as USP extension centres and other regional networks.

A community nutrition training project has been developed through the extension services of USP. This is a co-operative project between USP and Simon Frazer University in Canada and is funded by Canadian Aid. SPC is providing technical support and will also enable the project to spread beyond the 11 member countries of USP.

Briefly, the project will produce a set of attractive, relevant learning materials on community nutrition in easily read English. They are being written and illustrated by Pacific-based nutritionists and graphic artists. They will provide basic resource material for community development workers in the fields of public health, agriculture, education, women and youth programmes etc. to use in training workshops or as self learning materials.

That within the region there be established diploma and degree programmes for training health educators, nutritionists and other preventive health personnel.

A degree programme in nutrition is now available at USP in the Home Economics department of the School of Pure and Applied Sciences at B.Ed. and B.A. levels. There are plans for a B.Sc. degree. There has been one graduate so far and others are now taking the course. Teaching staff have or are about to receive postgraduate training overseas in nutrition to support the teaching of the programme.

Two masters level nutrition graduates returned to the region this year after completing a specially designed course at the University of Hawaii.

For the South Pacific Commission and other regional/international organisations to produce educational materials on health and nutrition issues relevant to women's health needs.

This is an on-going activity at SPC. Our aim is to produce colourful, attractive posters, leaflets and games, etc., to support and augment country-produced materials.

We encourage countries to adapt our materials and also to translate them into their own language. We have already produced several adaptations and translations and requests in this area are increasing.

Funding tends to be sporadic but we have had great assistance from AIDAB, France, Unesco, USAID and Baha'i International over the past six years. We are currently in urgent need of further funding for reprints and new development, as demand is outstripping supply. The recruitment of an assistant nutritionist will help us increase our activity in this area.

UNICEF and the Pacific Basin Maternal and Child Health Centre in the North Pacific have also been producing materials for regional or sub-regional distribution.

That countries produce, or adapt to local conditions, educational materials on health and nutrition issues relevant to women's health needs.

Many highly attractive and relevant materials are now available in most countries of the region, produced by local nutrition and health education departments. This activity needs further funding and resources to continue.

SPC, through its health education programme and funds from USAID, has been able to help several countries produce their own nutrition education materials.

That all Ministries of Education establish a compulsory, comprehensive family-life education programme (to include health education, population education, nutrition education, sex education, parenting, etc.) for both sexes in primary, secondary and tertiary schools. Such curricula should be adapted to local situations.

Many countries now have health education activities in their schools and an increasing number of resource materials for teachers are being developed.

For women to lobby governments to request surveys on health status of women.

No specific women's health studies have been carried out since the Niue and Marshall Islands surveys. However there have been several national nutrition, dietary and non-communicable disease surveys carried out in recent years and these provide valuable information on women's and children's nutritional health.

Information is being obtained on:

- adult and teenage women's nutritional status and prevalence of obesity,
- prevalence of anaemia in pregnant, lactating and non-pregnant/non-lactating women,
- dietary patterns, quantitative and/or qualitative, of women and children,
- infant feeding practices,
- breast-feeding patterns and rates.

That activities to promote the primary prevention of non-communicable (chronic) diseases be expanded. Governments are especially urged to formulate and adopt appropriate national food and nutrition policies.

Non-communicable disease prevention programmes were the focus of a regional conference in Apia in March this year and many countries are increasing their activities in this with a focus on primary prevention. SPC continues to support activities in this area and the nutrition programme is fundamental to this. Specific food policy activities are outlined in a separate activities report. In addition, an FAO/UNDP project on Food and Nutrition Planning in five countries of the region (FSM, Vanuatu, Tonga, Western Samoa and Kiribati) has greatly facilitated activities in this area. Vanuatu and Tonga are the most recent countries to adopt national food and nutrition policies.

That appropriate legislation concerning employed mothers be enacted to provide paid maternity leave, time off during the working day for breast-feeding, and on-site facilities for care of breast-fed infants.

In order to promote breast-feeding, we urge governments to make themselves familiar with and adopt the WHO/UNICEF International Code of Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes.

That Ministries of Health be encouraged to employ a counsellor to provide advice on breast-feeding and family planning to postpartum mothers.

A regional meeting of IBFAN in 1986 prompted a great increase in work to have the WHO-UNICEF International Code adopted and this has been possible in many countries. Breast-feeding promotion activities have continued and been expanded throughout the region and there is now much greater emphasis on breast-feeding in hospitals than there was a few years ago. Hospital practices on the whole seem to be much more supportive. More training and support for nursing staff on maternity wards and in post-natal and prenatal clinics is needed.

Other activities

Another regional activity which supports all the other activities in nutrition in the region is the UNICEF Family Food Production and Nutrition Project, which is working with many community groups, including women's organisations, to promote home production of food, especially fruits and vegetables.

Conclusions

One might ask why, with all the abundance of nutrition activities in the region today, some nutritional problems seem to be on the increase. This can probably be attributed to a number of factors:

- (a) continuing mobility of Pacific Island populations and exposure to new lifestyles;
- (b) new disease patterns cannot be attributed to nutrition factors alone; other lifestyle factors such as decreased exercise, increased smoking and alcohol intake, are also important;
- (c) changing lifestyles in rural communities; increasing communication and transportation are giving greater access to new foods and consumer goods;
- (d) increasing rates of teenage pregnancy in some countries are making this population group an increasingly 'at-risk' group;
- (e) school-children's eating habits are generally getting worse. Fruit and vegetable consumption is very low in the majority of island countries, especially in this and the pre-school age-groups, leading to the appearance of vitamin deficiencies (Vitamin A especially). An increase in anaemia in young mothers might also be anticipated.

On the positive side, there is an ever-increasing awareness of the need for a healthy diet and what this comprises; a far greater consciousness of the need for exercise, especially amongst town-dwellers and young adults. There is also an increasing awareness of the adverse health effects of gross obesity as opposed to a moderate degree of overweight. Home food production is increasing and governments are increasingly aware of the relevance of food and nutrition issues to good development. However, there still seem to be missing links among all these chains. What people know and understand is often not what they do or believe in. At policy level there are always conflicting issues of economics, politics and health in the food and nutrition area and at the education level there are the interacting issues of knowledge, convenience, custom and food preferences that cause conflict in influencing people's food choices.

There is still a great need to continue sensitising policy makers and decision makers, and to motivate and rationalise appropriate programmes for changing food patterns so that there is an appropriate blend of new and old, and good food choices from a taste and convenience as well from a health point of view.

ADDRESS BY DR LOUISE MORAUTA, AUSTRALIAN INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE BUREAU, ON THE THEME 'WOMEN AS DECISION-MAKERS'

How do we think about decision-makers? Who are they? What do they do?

The phrase makes us think first of people in powerful positions, government leaders, public servants high in the hierarchy. We think of somebody striding from behind his large, impressive desk, hands in his pockets, giving orders to his pretty secretary in a floral skirt, making things happen.

When we think of decision-makers, we think of leaders and managers. And most of us, despite ourselves, think of men. We think of decision-making as something men are good at. We think perhaps it is something women are not good at.

But all this is based on a misunderstanding about decision-making, about what decision-making is.

Decision-making is not just something managers do, or men do or your boss does. It is something everybody does. It goes on all the time on many different subjects and in many different contexts. Decision-making is also a bit more than taking decisions. Management theorists have worked out that there are really three parts to taking decisions:

- finding opportunities to make decisions;
- identifying the alternatives in front of us; and
- choosing between the alternatives.

Good decision-makers find many opportunities to make decisions. They identify lots of alternatives. And they choose wisely between them.

But you cannot take decisions well if you don't know what you are trying to achieve. So another element in good decision-making is having clear goals.

They can be simple goals like getting enough food for an evening meal for the family. Or long-term goals like making proper provision for aged parents or securing a good income after retirement.

All over the world women make as many decisions as men. They may make decisions about different kinds of things. But they still make lots of decisions.

In the Pacific, women have traditionally made a large number of decisions in the household economy - decisions about agricultural production, about the manufactured items they produce, about fishing, and about patterns of consumption and hygiene in their homes and the training of young children.

They still make many of the traditional kinds of decisions. But in some cases new areas of activity such as cash-cropping have become as much a part of man's domain.

Women have largely retained their crucial role in the intricate system of gifts and exchanges between households, relatives and friends. In Papua New Guinea, for example, in the 1980s, I made a study of remittances sent by townspeople to people in one particular home village. It turned out that daughters and their husbands sent more home to their elderly parents in the village than sons and their wives.

In poor areas of towns in Papua New Guinea, too, I found that women were very important in giving gifts, especially of food, between households.

Managing domestic resources is a tough assignment. Choosing where to give and where not to give are hard decisions.

I made a study in Papua New Guinea of domestic economic strategies. Many of the most successful were masterminded by women.

I remember a woman in a rural village who was suddenly left a widow with nine children under 15 years of age. How did she cope? How could she be sure her children would have a mix of foods? How could she be sure that they would be fed when she was sick or absent?

Her answer was to work very hard indeed making sago and catching fish. She then gave away to other people about 50 per cent of what she produced. This was very unusual by village standards. But it all made sense. Other people gave her garden produce. Her children never went hungry when she was sick. And when she was away, they always had a roof over their heads.

Don't get me wrong. This was a very tough strategy for this woman. She worked so hard and spent such long hours in the sago swamps that she could not breastfeed her baby properly.

The baby was so undernourished that the widow had to put the baby out to another mother who suckled her own and this one at the same time.

Women make very important and difficult decisions about marriage and divorce. These decisions affect family and community relations.

Marilyn Strathern has written about women in Mt Hagen society in Papua New Guinea. Women did not play an important part in public politics. But they were very independent of men in some other respects. They chose their husbands. Men did not choose their wives. And through divorce, women could sabotage exchange relationships between clans. Women had the power to make decisions that were disruptive as well as constructive from the community point of view.

All in all, Pacific women are pretty experienced decision-makers. They have lots of skills in managing resources, in handling personal relationships, and in minimising risks.

These skills as decision-makers can be used in many different contexts. Maybe there are not many Pacific women behind large desks giving orders to their secretaries. But I don't think it is because women are poor decision-makers.

Women have a lot to offer in the field of decision-making in public and community life. If they do not use these skills, the problem lies elsewhere.

It lies in what men expect women to do, what women themselves expect to do. It lies in the development over many generations of sets of expectations, obligations and activities, which limit the role of women in public life.

One way we look at expectations is to look at roles. So I would like to talk now about roles.

We hear a lot about roles at women's conferences: 'The role of women', 'The role of wife', 'The role of mother'.

We usually talk about roles as something that pushes us around, something we have to live with.

Often we feel locked into one or more demanding and conflicting roles. We say:

- 'It's so hard to have a career and be a wife and mother'.
- 'My husband expects me to do this, but my parents want me to do that.'
- 'Visitors come from home and they expect me to feed them and put them up for weeks on end. But I still have to pay the children's school fees.'

I am not quite sure we are right when we look at roles in this way.

OK, roles are about what people expect of us. But if that was all they were, nothing would ever change.

Defining roles is a two-way process. Other people expect us to do things. But we in turn can help define what they expect of us. We can mould the roles we play, not just be crushed by them.

We can be role-makers as well as role-takers.

Let me go back to what I said about decision-making earlier - about finding opportunities to make decisions. When we try to mould the roles we play, when we are role-makers, we are finding new opportunities to make decisions.

Pacific women have already met some notable challenges in moulding roles.

How do wives and daughters-in-law behave when their husband comes from a very different culture? Pacific women have been sorting this one out since the early days of teachers and missionaries from distant islands or regions came to their communities.

There weren't any rule books about how you treated a mother-in-law when you didn't even speak her language. Women made decisions as they went along.

Some of them leaned towards their husband's culture. Some towards their own. Others struck out a new middle road. When they did this they often helped to build up a modern multi-ethnic or national culture as they did so.

As you may have realised, I speak from some personal experience in this matter. I married somebody from a very different culture to my own. The local paper at home in England read: 'Birmingham girl marries tribal chief who lives in a mud hut!'

The differences were not quite that great. But neither group of relatives knew quite what to expect. We defined the roles in the family very much as we chose.

Pacific women have also been having a go at role-making when they take up full-time employment. And as far as they have gone, they seem to be taking a slightly different track from women, say, in Australia or New Zealand.

Pacific women are much less prepared to give up on family and marriage than Australian women. They are finding ways to keep both family and career. Families are more of an asset and less of a problem than in many western countries.

Pacific women have a strong tradition of women working together and supporting one another. These traditions vary from informal women's fishing and work groups in Melanesia to formal associations as in Samoa.

This means that Pacific women are used to doing what Australian women are learning to do: getting together, helping one another on women's issues.

Women are also role-making in their jobs and workplaces. When women take up positions in the public service they may try to change the traditional roles.

They can do this in several ways: by changing expectations about working late and overtime; by an emphasis on good personnel skills; by gradually making the culture of the workplace less of a men's culture.

They have also often chosen a less militant road to role-making than their sisters elsewhere. They are identifying the opportunities to make decisions in their own way.

But none of this is easy. Role-making can be a painful process. Even today in some rural communities in Australia, when a young woman chooses to leave home and have a career, she can deeply hurt her parents.

Much of the strain and stress of role-making falls on young people and young women. They bear the brunt of the hurt and pain.

I taught in the 1970s and 1980s at the University of Papua New Guinea. The strain on young women students was enormous.

They were trying to cope with new studies and develop new study habits.

But at the same time, they were trying to find a role for a female university student that meshed with the expectations of family, *wantok*, boyfriends, women peers, and university staff.

One of the hardest things about role-making is that the costs are all up front. The tough times come first.

The benefits are more spread out. Many are reaped later in life. They come in the long-term. Little wonder role-making can seem hard work!

Knowing how hard it can be, women like me should be a bit careful. It was not hard for me in the way it can be for many other women.

My grandmother was active in women's and adult education. My mother (who is here tonight) is a university graduate. My grandmother found it a lot harder than I did.

So women in the elite generally, women who have 'made it' in some way, must be careful. We must not overlook how difficult change can be for other women less fortunate than ourselves.

Role-making is not a quick process. One often painful decision builds on another.

Legal and administrative changes are quick and snappy. They are landmarks in some ways.

But changes in attitude and changes in what people expect take much longer. They can be almost imperceptible. But they will not occur at all unless we get started.

Where do overseas aid donors fit in all this?

As you know, I work at the Australian Aid Agency (AIDAB) in Canberra. What can we do to help?

Well, basically, we have to be rather careful. Pacific islands people are the decision-makers. When it comes to social change, they will say how much and how fast.

But countries like Australia are concerned about women in developing countries. There is much good will to be drawn on.

If women are to find opportunities to make decisions and to identify the options available to them, they need good information.

They need to understand their environment, be it work or urban settlement. They need to be literate. They need to be technically equipped to make the best of their environment, be it office, farm, home or backyard garden.

So aid donors can focus on these prerequisites for good decision-making. They can focus on training and education for women at all levels. Meetings such as this also have a part to play. And they can let Pacific women know that they support them and are willing to help.

This has I think been the approach in the Australian aid programme in the Pacific. Working through SPC, Australia has put in something over \$A100,000 towards the costs of this Conference.

We have supported training projects for women: a women's development training project in Tonga, and a maternal and child health education programme in Vanuatu. In a project for the PNG police force, we have emphasised the career needs of women officers.

Probably one of our major contributions is our assistance for primary, secondary and tertiary education generally. This includes support for USP.

We bring Pacific islands students to study in Australia. Our policy for all developing countries is that we would like to see half the trainees and students in Australia being women. But here we run into a problem. The pool of qualified women who want to come to Australia is often small.

In 1987, for example, there were 417 Pacific islands students in Australia on formal courses. Although we would have liked more, only 109 of these were women.

In the aid programme as a whole, we have been looking more closely at women in our development projects. In 1988/89 three people will work full-time on making sure that women's needs and interests are taken into account in the design and implementation of projects.

This applies not just to the South Pacific but also to our projects in other parts of the world.

But aid donors can only do so much. Pacific islands men and women are the main players.

Pacific islands women have experience and skills as decision-makers. They must continue to find and, if necessary, struggle to find new opportunities to use these skills. As they do, they will play an ever larger part in determining the shape their own societies will take in the future.

RESPONSE BY MRS HILDA KARI, PRESIDENT, SOLOMON ISLANDS NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN, TO THE ADDRESS ON 'WOMEN AS DECISION-MAKERS'

Before I respond to Dr Morauta's well laid out keynote address which we have all listened to so attentively, I wish to first extend my sincere gratitude to the Conference Planning Committee for giving me the honour and privilege to respond on what Louise has thoroughly outlined on this theme 'Women as Decision-Makers'.

To me personally this is a great honour, especially as I find myself amongst women of higher educational attainments and of course more important women with talent and qualities of such high standing. This is of course a pride for this region; it means we are changing. We must thus start to be proud of one another, because this means that we are beginning to have our own resource persons, whom we can use rather than always looking outside the region.

We heard yesterday evening about the negative attitudes that we women ourselves still have and can have for each other. We must change this adverse attitude if we are to see ourselves coming out and taking the forerunners' role in encouraging those 70-80 per cent of women in the rural setting whom we represent. There is a popular saying 'Together we stand - divided we fall'. We must be realistic to make this jargon 'Regional' become a true statement. We need each other in trade, by sharing our human resources, and many other kinds of assistance. One of our best traditional ways is helping our neighbours by sharing what we have with them; this was also mentioned by Dr Morauta.

However, although this statement may sound so wonderful, we know only too well that this is the inner enemy; that is, we women amongst ourselves are drowning each other, instead of uplifting one another. I can only remind us, sisters, of our true Christian principles which we must never forget in this changing world; gossip is a sin, and how you or I judge another will be the way you or I will also be judged.

After having said all that, let me come back and say with apologies that my response will be simple, simply because I am a very simple kind of a person, and simply also because I do *not* have a high vocabulary to use hard and complicated words. I am a very poorly educated person too. It may also be because I have never before attended such a high regional meeting or conference of this nature.

My firm decision to attend this conference, irrespective of the opposition I received, was made with boldness and courage. You see, this confirmed what Dr Louis Morauta said, that we do make decisions at every turn. The real question is 'What will be the result of my decision, is it possible and beneficial to anyone or is it destructive with no objectives?'

I would like now to take us back to Saturday morning, to the speech made by the Secretary-General of the South Pacific Commission; and extract some relevant comments for the purpose of this conference.

The Honourable Afioga Pulefa'asisina P. M. Tuiasosopo, in one part of his important and challenging address to us women of this Pacific region, said, 'Women are an important, vital, and valuable resource in the region, especially in each Island nation's development'. This is an important statement, and we must find its real meaning, otherwise it's a lost statement made in yet just another speech.

He also pointed out that this region accommodates three of the major races in the world, namely Micronesian, Polynesian and Melanesian. This factor, if misinterpreted, can be destructive rather than constructive. However, as so many in this conference have repeatedly said, I also believe in my heart and sincerely feel that there is still one thing we Pacific islanders still treasure. That is, of course, the nature of our societies that belong only to us in the Pacific; there is always room for a friendly smile without attachments even on the street, so much so that wherever you go in this Pacific region, there is always a feeling that you are still at home. The other factor of notable significance, if not true for all the region, is its young populace.

Already, Solomon Islands, which is part of this region, is beginning to wake up to the fact that it is this young population now that will produce the population of the next ten years; and for the first time the Government has thought seriously on the implications of a high population growth rate, which in Solomon Islands at this point is 3.5 per cent. This awakening has begun an era of re-direction of development plans, so that population becoming a liability to the economy can be avoided. Any Government to be formed in Solomon Islands from now has an urgent task ahead of it, because already at this point in time the economy, in terms of services like health education, etc., is far behind. How can Solomon Islands, as part of this region, be assisted? I am using Solomon Islands here as an example because I am well versed with its current situation, as compared to the other parts of the region. SPC, through its various visits to Solomon Islands, is well aware of our situation.

The theme for this Conference 'Challenge to Change' is closely related to 'Women as Decision-makers', the subject in discussion. Mainly, because unless there are changes, not just changes but *notable* changes in the areas of family and community attitudes, women will continue to be pressed down by those unchanged attitudes. But I must make it clear, that as part and parcel of the human race, we must arouse ourselves to the fact that as human beings we make decisions each day, from awaking in the morning to the time we doze off at night. This means that everything you or I do always must be decided upon, so there is no difference in this, whether it be man or woman. Each person trusts her/his decision without realising that a decision has been made. Louise had already also touched on this particular aspect.

At the Sunday Ecumenical Church Service, Adi Davila Walker also encouraged us to know that changing is a lifetime process; and she referred to the great changes our Lord Jesus had to go through to become man so that he is able to show us the way back to God. Mrs Walker said that any change without God's direction through his Holy Spirit is not whole. Therefore if we women of this region want wholesome change we must be liberated by the Holy Spirit, by using God's own sword which is his words for change. She said all things, including decisions, will have real meaning only if this is our direction.

The All Almighty God, the powerful creator has put humankind, male and female, to live together; in so doing they must decide together, with understanding, what is best for them. I believe that the disharmony, dishonesty, the suffering and fear in this region and the world at large stem from the mere fact that woman is left out in decision-making; there is no united decision if a decision is male dominated. I mean that all decisions being made and carried out in this region today are male dominated, especially in the political arena and the management area of Public Services. This may not be true for all our island nations that make up the Pacific region, but for some this is very real. I congratulate those islands who already have women politicians and Public Service top level managers. This is hope for us who still need to go into this area, as we speak about the 'Challenge to Change'.

Why are we addressing this subject, 'Women as Decision-makers?' In my view we should be really addressing 'Where do we want women to make decisions?' As I said earlier, we make decisions from waking up from sleep in the morning to the time we doze off to sleep at night. We must be realistic and specific in our meetings and conferences, so that we do not waste time and money on deciding and making resolutions that are far from and unrealistic to our very situations. There are only certain areas in our human structures where decisions are made for the communities that make up a country, i.e. political level, implementation level and management levels; it does not matter what kind of entity is concerned. How can women get themselves into such decision-making bodies? Can they do it by force? by charm? by demand? or by public demonstrations? Never! It has to start from the very basics:

- (i) Woman must seek God's direction, and she must understand that she is God's own special creation, that she was *not* created by any human being; thus she is a very special being;
- (ii) Man must understand under God's direction that woman is his 'helpmate', a precious gift to him from God. She is not his slave and servant; in this context she is his equal partner, and because this is so, both of them have special gifts to use so that they must decide together to be able to maintain peace;
- (iii) There must be changes of attitude, especially on who should be educated, and education must be made compulsory for all from Class 1 all the way up to Form 6, so that only lazy and stubborn children will miss the chance, by self choice;
- (iv) The husband, wife and child (family) 'deciding together' basis should be used in any form of organisation, government, NGOs, etc.;
- (v) The Pacific region must maintain its Christian identity, allowing only the Holy Spirit to liberate all minds to whatever needs to change; always sharing responsibilities together, not fighting for power and prestige, which are human based and very temporary.

May I stress again what the Secretary-General of SPC said in another way, that woman is the heart of the family. Without her humility, her skill, her talent, her concern, caring attitude and genuine love, little helpless babies could never reach manhood. By her very basic nature, she knows and understands the basic needs of human kind. She does not really know what 'power hungry' means, or even pride, but her only wish at all times is to see that things are done properly. Therefore, it is only natural that she is part and parcel of the planning and decision-making process. Man has knowledge, maybe lots of it, but woman has natural wisdom. This wisdom is stalemated if not used to improve community and life standards. Woman's God-given natural gift of wisdom must be utilised to help make the Pacific keep up with world changes and recessions. In this we women of the Pacific region, whether we be Micronesian, Polynesian or Melanesian, must look outside ourselves to the interest of our other sisters, to help uplift each other through sharing our skills and talents.

The other challenge now is what are we, who may be nearer the goal of going into some of these decision-making bodies, or already there, going to do to assist in getting the message to our women wherever they are? How best can we make them aware of themselves as special beings?

In Solomon Islands there is a lot of hidden potential, but we have real constraints, so much so that even our Solomon Islands National Council of Women is finding that attempts to co-ordinate the individual women's groups to become active and economical resources is slow and tiring. Whilst we are getting through the message to the men, the devil is attacking right amongst women.

This is of course not so for other Pacific islands which are moving positively towards the process of having women and men together in areas of decision-making.

Women, our presence is of vital importance in our decision-making bodies. When you get there, for goodness' sake speak out! This is the change and this is the challenge.

Lastly, as the current President of the Solomon Islands National Council of Women, I wish to pass a request. At this very time, we, the women of Solomon Islands, are in the process of gathering information and material to draft our National Women's policy. Two of our most dignified and knowledgeable ladies with a small group of women are at this time working on it with untiring effort; they are Sister Paul Francis, a Roman Catholic Sister who is the chairwoman, and Nuatale Maru, the Secretary. The final draft will be compiled after consulting the grassroots women and then put to the National Parliament for its blessing before we adopt it. We do not yet have a woman politician who will speak on it for us, but my hope is that this document will become a tool, an eye-opener for both women and men to truthfully and realistically look to women as an active resource in the economy. We are addressing 'challenge to change' and 'Women in Decision-making', therefore Solomon Islands must follow this line.

If any sister islands wish to assist us, we would welcome any constructive ideas from this Regional Conference; then we will take those ideas that suit our situations and throw away those that do not.

The basic question for us Solomon Islanders and also for the region as a whole, is, 'Are we planning and developing to improve the living standards of our people, or are we developing in a greedy kind of attitude for self rather than for our people?' In our decisions (as women) do we ensure our people improve, or do we go along with decisions that make them poorer?

I believe with all my heart that one of the greatest weapons of the enemy is to have women think they are inferior. This is a big constraint yet to be addressed in many of our communities throughout the region.

We here know what 'change' is because we are lucky enough to become aware of it. Let us make it our decision and aim to tackle this sleeping lioness by continual awareness raising programmes. Let us make decisions in this area and help implement them. We shall need each other more than ever before in the form of resource persons, talents, skills and maybe finances.

Let us make decisions that will surely help to change and improve the lifestyles of our women in all the many different kinds of classes:

- the rural woman
- the urban woman
- the well educated
- the less educated
- the non-educated
- the employed (salaried)
- the employed (wages)
- the unemployed-farmer
- the rich
- the poor, etc.

For Solomon Islands this is real; like Papua New Guinea we must start somewhere and I think this goes for the region.

May I take this opportune chance to ask Dr Morauta to extend our gratitude to AIDAB for funding part of this Conference through SPC.

**PRESENTATION BY JUDGE JANET WEEKS TO THE WORKSHOP ON
WOMEN AND THE LAW**

It is a great pleasure to have the opportunity to address this meeting of Pacific women. My topic this morning, as you know, is Women and Law and I propose to divide that topic into three major areas of consideration:

Women as the Law
Women asking of the Law
Women outside the Law.

It is of paramount importance to women that they be properly represented within all the professions - we recognise that. I suggest to you that it is of special importance that women be involved in making the laws, as legislators, and in interpreting the laws, as judges. The first of these is not my field - I leave its importance to be discussed, and I hope it will be, by others.

But the value of women at bar and bench I can and will address.

Within the past 30 years, extraordinary strides have been made for women in the legal profession in the United States.

When I graduated from law school in Boston, Massachusetts in 1958, there were 3 women in my class. Today in the US 33 per cent of the law students are women! It is from that field of women lawyers that judges are to be drawn.

One of the first and obvious advantages to a woman's being on the bench is a simple visual one. Many times women wield power behind the scenes, but a woman who can enjoin government contracts and sentence criminals has a high profile. Her presence tells two stories: to young women, you can aspire; to young men - not all the powerful people are male. There can be a recognition of that fact from the time children first begin to be aware of civic affairs. A sense of sexual equality is subtly placed in their young minds.

In the United States mainland, men and women now have become used to the appearance of women in the Courtroom. I can recall back in 1959, the FBI agents being shocked when they had to work with me as a woman prosecutor when I was with the Department of Justice in Washington D.C. *Now* they not only routinely work with women lawyers, we have women FBI agents.

What I want to indicate to you is that by encouraging women to put in the long years of study to achieve these things, they benefit themselves, they provide role models for others, they impress upon men the total equality of competence.

A second way women judges effect change is in the special attributes they bring to the bench. I have the good fortune to be a charter member of the American Association of Women Judges. We started 10 years ago with 50 women, including Sandra Day O'Connor, who was then in the Arizona State Court, and is now a Justice of the US Supreme Court. Our membership is presently over 600. So many of these women have juggled marriages, child raising and careers in the face of the very obvious discrimination to which we were once subjected. The kind of woman who persevered when faced with the demands and biases the women of the 50's and 60's faced tends to be a very 'put together' sort of person. She brings to the decisions she must make *not* just a knowledge of the law, but an awareness of people; she tends to be an excellent evaluator of the credibility of witnesses; she adapts, she listens - she hears what people are really saying, not just the words they utter. It is also characteristic of women judges to be 'super efficient' - we are even teased by our male colleagues about it. But we've *had* to be - we've not come home evenings to prepared meals and scrubbed children, able to work on the materials in our brief cases. Most of us came home, *prepared* the meal, *scrubbed* the youngsters and *then* worked on the materials in our briefcases. This organisation is *not* so apparent to the layperson, but within the Courts, women judges are known for their *own* efficient management, and, if the truth be known, even disliked for imposing it on our more casual brother judges!

The application of these thoughts to the situation of our island nations seems to me to be that we must encourage women (not just recent graduates but women of any age) to go for legal training. We must offer the assistance, both financial and personal, that makes it possible to study, first of all, and to practise law afterwards. We must give the woman lawyer, solicitor, *avocat* our business, reassure them of our confidence. And when a qualified woman is available for a judgeship, put her on the bench - she will not disappoint you.

The second category within my remarks is what women ask of the law.

I have reviewed the literature available to all of you and I do not know that I can add much to all that has been written about violence against women and how it is handled within the Courts.

I do know that the number of accusations of beatings made by wives or live-in girlfriends, has sky-rocketed in my 13 years as a judge. I attribute this *not* necessarily to more abuse, but the dwindling of the reluctance island women had to even mention it.

Years ago when I was still practicing law as a partner in Trapp, Gayle, Teker, Weeks and Freedman, a law firm on Guam, I was discussing a possible divorce with a client. Her children were grown - she wanted out of the marriage, but under the law as it was in 1974 she did not appear to have grounds we could hope to prove; he *was* seeing another woman, but we had no hard evidence of adultery. Now 'extreme cruelty' was also grounds - but she only spoke of his 'affairs'. In our conversation, however, she alluded, merely as an aside, to seeing him *from* the jungle around their house, with this other woman. What, I asked amused, were you doing in the jungle at one o'clock in the morning. 'Oh', she answered, 'when he beats me, on payday, I have always taken the children and we would hide there until he is sober the next day'. My amusement faded, but my horror grew. This lovely gentle lady had been beaten regularly for 20 years of marriage, and never regarded it as being grounds for divorce. Further questioning by me revealed that fleeing to the jungle was what *her* mother had done in identical circumstances.

Now here, I believe, great change has been effected. Three things are responsible: firstly, the widespread publicity given to the fact that one does *not* vow to love, honour, obey and be a punching bag. Secondly, the establishment of shelters for women who flee their homes and abusive husbands. The prospect of having no place to go has sent more abused women back to their husbands than undying love ever did. On Guam, the Good Shepherd sisters have *Alee* where they take women and their children who are victims, going out at any hour of the day or night to pick them up; they feed them, clothe them, counsel them, come to Court to give them courage to pursue charges, face the husbands and counsel them, or just turn them away. You would be amazed to see these tiny nuns telling big burly husbands to 'back off', when they approach the wives in the courthouse lobby, hoping to conjoin them into 'forgetting about it'.

The third and important factor is that the police now do not just say 'it's a family fight - we won't interfere'. They describe it as it really is - the crime of assault. It is prosecuted as such before the Court and punished accordingly.

Another serious area of which I can see from your literature you are well aware is the crime of rape. We have on Guam rape counsellors who remain with victims from the first report of the crime. During the necessary, but mortifying examinations and questioning of the victims by the doctors and police they stay with them. They do not force them to confide, but they are there.

During my time as a practising attorney, I defended men charged with rape, and I know it was not uncommon for women to drop charges because they simply did not have the courage and resolve to testify at trial. Certain changes in the law (on Guam one cannot inquire into the victim's sex life prior to the alleged rape, for example) make the trial far less traumatic. Our newspapers, by agreement, not by law, never mention a rape victim's name. With a child victim, a rape counsellor is allowed to be in Court during her testimony.

I do not know whether crimes of rape are more frequent - I do know prosecutions have increased - it is no longer a crime that someone feels he can just get away with, because of the embarrassment of the victim or her family.

And now, the final point in my discussion, women outside the law - less euphemistically, criminals who also happen to be women.

Mostly when addressing women's groups (and I have had the opportunity to speak to just about every women's club on Guam, social, ethnic and business, as well as keynoting women's conferences in the Republic of the Marshalls and Palau, and girls' high schools throughout the islands) I find this particular topic evokes the most discomfort. Women are pleased to discuss women's advances in the profession and militant on the subject of women as victims, but O! so tender about women who commit crimes. Granted there is usually approval for the woman who does in her husband who consistently beat her over the years, but my experience has been that women just do not want to hear about women as criminals. However, since my role here today is to stimulate thought and discussion, and you have politely listened to me this long, I am going to have a few words on the subject.

Recent statistics indicate more prosecutions of women for crimes of violence. My personal experience is that women are in my court far more often for all kinds of crimes. In the past 5 years, I have handled 7 major embezzlement cases; all defendants were female. Drunk driving cases involving women are about 10-15 per cent of the total, but, somewhat interestingly, I have never known a woman to go to trial - they always plead guilty, even to the felony of causing injuries because of an accident when under the influence. The petty misdemeanour crime of shoplifting is a 'woman's crime' - rarely, does one see an adult male so charged.

Yet such economic crimes, or in the case of drunk driving, 'occasion' crimes are not what has interested me. Rather it is the incidence of crimes of violence by women.

Ann Jones pointed out in her thought provoking book, *Women who kill*, 'unlike men who are apt to stab a total stranger in a drunken brawl or run amok with a high powered rifle, we women usually kill our intimates: we kill our children, our husbands, our lovers'.

The female crime wave and its violent women were first widely publicised in 1975 through another book, *Sisters in crime*, by Freda Adler. She concluded, I believe mistakenly, that the women's movements *caused* the phenomenal increases (nationally) in crimes by women. She termed it 'the shady aspect of (women's) liberation'. Others have blamed the societal changes - the economic burdens on women driving them to the work force with its stresses and disappointments, the use of drugs, the single woman not entering into a family relationship. The defence of PMS - pre-menstrual syndrome, said to somehow induce a lack of reason, is proffered as a defence.

It is either amusing, pitiful or uninformed, I'm not sure which, but in my experience every woman who is accused by the Territory of a violent crime and who is represented by a male attorney, requests a mental examination, calling her mental condition, i.e. possible insanity, into issue. The belief remains women just don't do these things unless they're crazy!

Now, I don't have the answer to this increased incidence of violence but again, as you reflect, as I hope you will, on my remarks, seek that answer also.

Our experiences on Guam have always trailed the mainland by a few years, as far as trends go. Those of you whose island nations are still crystallising may not yet be at the point where these things I speak of, crimes by and against women, placement of women in the legal system, need positive action. But benefit from our experiences, prepare a plan of action with us, give it thought - that we can, and should, do for each other.

**PAPER PRESENTED TO THE WORKSHOP ON
AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY
BY RUTH LILOQULA (SOLOMON ISLANDS)**

The theme for this conference is 'Challenge to Change'. This has a lot of meaning in the field of agriculture, forestry and fisheries. Change should be in terms of women having equal opportunity to participate, to change the attitudes and the technology being used at present. Appropriate technologies and services should be developed to enable women to have equal participation, to obtain maximum benefit from what is available and to take a more active part in the development of their country, should they wish to do so. I believe that the involvement of women in any development in agriculture, forestry and fisheries from the planning stage to the implementation phase is of vital importance. For Pacific women these three areas provide the basic needs of life such as food, shelter and water.

I have been working with the Ministry of Agriculture and Lands in my country for the past ten years, and what I share with you today will be Solomon Islands orientated and in the field of agriculture. I have very little contact in my profession with fisheries, and in forestry my involvement has been concerned with land areas that have been logged in the name of development. I am not an expert in these areas but I will share with you some of my thoughts concerning the three issues.

When a Westerner looks at the forest he sees green, and when he looks at the sea he sees blue. When a Pacific islander looks at these two areas, he sees a pharmacy, a sporting goods store, a grocery, a hardware store, privacy, a room to study and many other things. Let us not forget these values of the sea and the forest, and how they affect women, children and the community, for the sake of development.

Planners must always consider these aspects of the sea and the forest, and how they affect the rural community, for any meaningful development. The people we have coming to plan our development and those of our fellow countrymen must be made to see and evaluate the land and the sea the way we see them. For example, the mangrove swamps: these are the places where we gather our crabs, shellfish and house materials etc. The agriculture/forestry experts see a non-productive piece of land and so instead of planning for development such as teaching farmers to farm the crabs, they may put it down as a place to harvest wood to make charcoal for charcoal stoves, thus destroying an environment for the development of the crab farming industry.

These thoughts cover what I'd like to share with you. As I said in the beginning, my talk will focus on Solomon Islands, and on the changes I have seen and have lived with for the past ten years as a professionally qualified person and for the last 36 years as a Solomon Islander brought up with clear cut values of life, principles and responsibility, and roles within the community in which I live, which revolves around agriculture, forestry and the sea or fisheries. Having been given the best education in the two worlds in which I find myself, I can make decisions about which aspects of each I can accept and keep to cater for the changes which are taking place in the environment and to participate in a more meaningful way for the provision of the basic needs of life, food, shelter and water. This, however, should not be taken as a pre-requisite to meaningful participation, which can occur at many different levels.

The people of the Solomon Islands are of three different racial groups, namely the Polynesians, Melanesians and the Micronesians. Every man and woman is a gardener or an agriculturalist, and for this reason the future of the Solomon Islands lies very much in the development of agriculture, forestry and fisheries. For instance, in agriculture, the development of new cash crops for the world and regional markets, as well as development of food supply systems with modern appropriate agronomical techniques using superior and better varieties, would benefit them. I wish to point out here that those concerned with development in these areas should take into account that the people of Solomon Islands, in particular the women, put higher value on reliability and a variety of production systems than on high yield.

In their traditional way of life, the people of Solomon Islands lived with their kindred in small villages on their tribal land, practising shifting agriculture, fishing, hunting, raising pigs and, above all, keeping very much to themselves apart from the occasional raids to and from neighbouring villages and islands. Rule was by custom norms, as clarified by the chief and the village elders, although in some islands chiefly lines or extended families exercised a wider authority based on their reputation achieved through success, influence and wealth. Contact with the outside world has put a stop to raids, and has brought in many changes, but basically, the mode of living is still the traditional life in the village, with every family growing its own food and building its own house, without an awareness of or participation in decisions that have been taken on the way agriculture, fisheries and forestry should be developed. Many times, these development plans are geared towards the national interest and often the needs of the national government may not be the same as those of the rural dweller. It is also true that most of the revenue generated from the rural areas goes to cater for the growing needs of an urban based community, making the gap widen each year. It is very worrying to know that this may continue to be so because education-wise, the urban-reared children, male and female, are more advantaged than the rural ones. If nothing is done in the near future, it is very likely that in future, the country will be run by those who have been brought up in the urban areas, who undoubtedly will not have an idea of what the rural communities are facing in their struggle to improve their standard of living. It is therefore of vital importance that agricultural, fisheries and forestry development be planned side by side with an understanding of how the society works, and what these three areas mean to the majority of the rural dwellers. The rural dwellers, especially women, should take part in all stages, and not just in signing an agreement which they may not understand.

To get back to agriculture, it is unfortunate to note that the number of women who have had formal training are few, though the women are by birth agriculturalists. The outlook for the recruitment of women for agricultural training is bleak, mainly because of the attitude shown by the women so far and because of the stereotyped education system we have. We are hoping to change this attitude so that women will take a more positive approach in this area.

Throughout the history of Solomon Islands, women have always taken on equal, if not sometimes more than fair share of responsibility and work compared with men, shaping the agricultural practices and farming systems of the country. Unfortunately, as in many other societies, their roles and their contributions have not been recorded, and their importance has not been considered by those who plan for development in all sectors.

Women in Solomon Islands, unfortunately, are not at all known for the active part they played in food production systems in the past as well as at present. Their role in food and cash cropping lacks consideration. The most praiseworthy and difficult tasks are done by the women in the rural areas. In these areas the women are engaged in agriculture, fisheries and forestry from dawn to dusk, rain or shine. Most of the produce from these hard working hours by these women is used to feed the family; in some areas markets are available and the surpluses are sold. This also contributes to the economic activities of the country. Much of the food production is also provided by women and they are the major resource base in agricultural production; their working hours far exceed those of men. The participation of women is as natural as agriculture itself. While they are faced with long working hours and undertake decisions concerning the household, they have no access to the appropriate technology and support services necessary to improve their production and to enable them to have equal participation in the economic development of their country.

Points for consideration

The women are affected by any developmental plans in these three areas and any programme or plan should always take into account that women can contribute a lot to decision making. An effort should be made to assess the farming systems already in existence, and the potential for village based subsistence agriculture and small-holder cash cropping ventures by family units. The emphasis should be geared to the problems of the communities dependent on subsistence agriculture.

Approaches to evaluating land and sea resources have so far been heavily oriented to Western concepts of development of agriculture, forestry and fisheries. For example, in agriculture, this is farming on flat land with high inputs in terms of fertiliser and machinery; in fisheries, big fishing boats; and in forestry, large scale logging, depriving women of a chance to take part in these industries and more importantly, destroying their environment, which caters for their basic needs for existence or life. We all know that such approaches are not appropriate for women's participation and one also wonders about the participation of our rural men. The traditional system of harvesting the resources available in these areas to ensure their continued availability has been based on the adaptation of whatever practices we have in relation to the environment, as compared with the Western concept which seeks to modify the environment to make it acceptable to a system the managers wish to see. Perhaps this is not such a good idea when we look at the topography of our country. The failure of many Western concept-based agricultural development projects may be due to this; however, this is open to debate. Women often successfully cultivate slopes considered impossible in Western farming systems, and therefore have a lot to contribute to these three areas of industry. No development plan should neglect the part that the women play nor should it forget the other duties that women perform in their various communities, as they will be eventually be the ones to implement the plan, as well as standing to lose a lot more. They should be considered for all aspects of training involving these areas, should they so wish, so that they may equally benefit from development programmes.

Lastly but not least, services to cater for women's production in fisheries and agriculture are an important issue. Regional markets should be looked into, as well as international markets. There should be an investigation into what happens to supply and marketing methods, when one puts in some basic services such as collection/delivery, farm-gate payments, market feedback, organised selling, depot and storage facilities to include simple food processing technology to process produce which does not meet the fresh market quality and perishables that cannot be sold. This could be done through a small pilot project. There must be something immediately practical that begins to help our women in their household economy. The women are really the significant force in the economic development of our nations and an effective programme to support and promote their production and participation needs to be looked into. Women's development programmes are becoming increasingly unbalanced - it is all health, nutrition, sanitation, etc. - and these need to be reviewed for effectiveness. After having looked at these areas I can't help asking where the services to the household production budget are.

**ADDRESS BY MS NEVA WENDT (ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION OFFICER,
SOUTH PACIFIC REGIONAL ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME) TO THE WORKSHOP ON
THE ROLE OF WOMEN'S ORGANISATIONS IN ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION**

Introduction

Often at a forum that discusses the two subjects, WOMEN and the ENVIRONMENT, the emphasis is placed on the effect that women's activities have on their surroundings in their roles as producers of food (through agricultural and reef-gleaning activities); as providers of fuel (through wood collecting and charcoal making activities); and as collectors of water for use in a number of ways connected with women's work in the home. Discussions of 'Women and the Environment' usually tend to focus on development of appropriate technology to assist women in this role and to ensure that there is the least possible adverse effect on the environment resulting from this work. By the term ENVIRONMENT we mean everything that surrounds us - the land, sea, animals, plants, air and, of course, other people.

The discussion here, however, looks at WOMEN and the ENVIRONMENT from a different perspective - it looks at women as ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATORS.

Women as environmental educators

There are two potential means by which South Pacific women can play an active and vital part in furthering environmental awareness and education. Firstly, in their role as mothers - through direct contact with, and influence upon, their children. Women can ensure that the values they instill in their children give them an appreciation of their surroundings and an understanding of the need to ensure that the activities these children undertake throughout their growing years, and also in later life, do not do anything to harm their islands - the environment of which in many cases is quite fragile. Secondly, women have an important part to play through a concerted group effort in their role as members of women's organisations - making the wider community aware of the need for environmental protection.

Women's organisations have the potential to play an extensive and very effective role in strengthening environmental awareness throughout the region. The sheer number of Women's Groups existing in every country, often on every island and in many cases, in every village, makes women as a group, a very formidable and powerful body. Your combined energy focused on an environmental education and awareness-raising activity could play a major role in protecting the environment of the South Pacific region. As there is only a limited, albeit growing number, of non-government organisations within the region formed specifically to undertake environmental activities, women's organisations have an important role to play, both by assisting existing environmental NGOs and by undertaking their own awareness-raising activities.

Environmental education activities for women's organisations

Because of its all-embracing nature (involving as it does the entirety of our surroundings), the environment is an ideal subject for education which can be undertaken in a variety of ways, many of which involve practical activities demonstrated within the environment itself.

- *Tree planting projects*, for instance, are just one of a number of awareness-raising activities that provide on-the-spot demonstration and education, as do *Aluminium Can Recycling Projects*.
- Involvement in *National Environment Week Celebrations*, where such celebrations already exist, or the development by Women's organisations of such a National Day/Week in those countries where no specific time is set aside each year for these activities, provides an effective avenue for environmental awareness-raising. By working closely with other community groups, with churches and with schools, a large series of activities can be undertaken, such as environmental poster competitions, song-writing and story-writing competitions.
- Organise *Environmental Seminars* at which government departments can be asked to discuss how they take into consideration environmental concerns in their day-to-day work and in planning of new projects. For instance, the department responsible for tourism can explain its policy relating to siting of hotels - the studies undertaken to assess the effect of extra sewage disposal and impact of increased demand for water associated with such tourist facilities. The department responsible for town planning can explain its evaluation of potential environmental impact associated with increased industrial development. Such an Environmental Seminar has a two-fold benefit. It can educate the public while drawing to the government's attention, through public discussion, those areas in which environmental management and planning is lacking. Women's organisations can instigate such a Seminar.
- *Write articles in your own newsletters* on environmental activities, such information being available through contact with our SPC environment programme SPREP (the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme) and with other environmental NGOs. We would welcome the opportunity to include your organisation on our Newsletter mailing list as would other Environmental NGOs.
- *Write material for local radio programmes* on local environmental issues that come to your notice. Subjects may include pollution you see running from a factory into a stream or onto a beach, or a garbage disposal area that is spoiling mangroves near your home. There are many activities that can be allowed to damage the environment if they are left unnoticed. Women's organisations can, however, be on the lookout for polluters and can act as ENVIRONMENTAL WATCHDOGS.
- *Video/slide showings*, with environmental material available from SPREP, can result in an entertaining, as well as educational night.

Environmental issues in the South Pacific

Above are outlined ways in which women's organisations can undertake environmental awareness-raising. But in order to do this effectively, members of women's organisations must be aware themselves of the issues that affect the South Pacific environment.

The governments of the region, when developing a plan of activities for our programme (SPREP), identified the major environmental problems as:

Soil erosion, associated with agriculture or pastures created on steep slopes as well as timber extraction. Since the vulnerable island soils (in very short supply on some islands) are an essential natural resource that cannot easily be replaced, these losses represent an important permanent reduction in island productivity.

Mineral extraction, particularly of sand and aggregate for building materials, causes problems for over half the countries. Sand removal from our beaches leads to beach loss and coastal erosion; while dredging of sand and coral from the reef and lagoon bottom destroys productive fisheries and creates pollution. Extraction of other minerals such as copper, nickel, phosphate and gold with its associated land degradation and mine-waste disposal is regarded as a problem by 30 per cent of the region's countries. In Papua New Guinea there are some unfortunate examples of devastation to the landscape as a result of mining operations and, of course, one only needs to visit Nauru to understand how whole islands can be destroyed by mining activities.

Availability of fresh water is a serious problem in several of our South Pacific countries, exacerbated by pollution of rivers and lakes and poor management of water catchment areas.

Loss of forests is seen as a significant problem by 70 per cent of the island countries. This is associated with clearing for agriculture and with commercial logging, the latter being a matter of some controversy, with people questioning whether short-term economic benefit should outweigh long-term environmental damage.

Coastal zone management. The coastal zone, the area between land and sea, is one of the most environmentally fragile areas in island countries and yet most cities of the region are located on coastal zones, leading to conflicts over land use and reclamation of coastal areas. *Mangroves*, particularly, are one island resource that is, in many areas, endangered. They are a valuable resource important in fish breeding and in controlling coastal erosion and yet all too often their value is not appreciated.

Damage to reefs and lagoons from pollution and illegal dynamiting and poisoning for fish is a matter of widespread concern - the fragile coral reefs being an integral part of island ecosystems, on which a whole host of marine life depends.

Waste disposal is seen as a particular problem, especially on the smaller islands. Sewage waste is the prime concern, with disposal of solid waste like cars, household appliances, cans and bottles being a worry to most governments.

Toxic chemicals, particularly *pesticides*, are now being recognised as a problem for the environment world-wide. In the South Pacific region, we are particularly concerned that there is little or no monitoring of toxic chemicals. Drums have rusted and leaked into soil and groundwater, cyclones have destroyed and spilled agricultural stores, and chemicals have intentionally been poured into streams and lagoons to kill fish. More than half the countries reported the need for greater care and understanding relating to use of toxic chemicals.

Environmental education resources

The environmental problems outlined above are the subject of a slide set and a video available from our programme. These are just some of the stock of audio-visual and written material available simply by writing to us at the South Pacific Commission.

Conclusion

The importance of utilising the energy, skills and enthusiasm of women's organisations as environmental educators cannot be stressed strongly enough. You could prove to be one of the region's most valuable assets in the fight to protect the SOUTH PACIFIC ENVIRONMENT.

LOCAL EXPERIENCE

SUCCESSIONS	PROBLEMS OR FAILURES	SOLUTIONS
COOK ISLANDS		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Men good promotion - Women not allowed to drive to get interviews - Lack of privacy in women's issues on satellite sessions - Time allocated to women's programmes not suitable (am) when at work - Isolation - Lack of transport - How to get material to grassroots 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - PI journalists network to get information to grass-roots
FIJI		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Women's programme daily, 9 - 10.30, 3 languages, time for govt dept/NGOs and evening programmes on health etc. - 10 - 3.00 FM3 Community programmes - <i>Fiji Times</i> Press releases for women's meetings - Newsletter - Monthly/fortnightly programmes on radio 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - They print what they think, we don't have time to fill it. 	
KIRIBATI		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Government secondary school 500 students from all islands 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Communication with parents re fees - on radio but not successful (no radios) - Use newsletter now 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Change media if not successful (as soon as possible)

SUCCESSSES	PROBLEMS OR FAILURES	SOLUTIONS
NEW CALEDONIA		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Male radio staff cut women's programme time - Low listenership to women's radio programme - Not enough time allocated 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lobby radio programmes committee for good time for programme - Get women on committee - Visit villages for material and use in programme - Questions and answers
NEW ZEALAND		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Radio Aotearoa - National daily programmes for women - 30 mins a week - PI women - TV messages to PI women 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Use of radio/TV
NIUE		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Radio similar to Fiji - It is successful in reaching villages 2 x 30" a week after local news (women want men to hear what's going on) - TV - all programmes imported 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cultural gap between urban government sector and rural audiences - Need for training in TV - No money to print local language posters 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Evaluation questionnaire - Let women be part of programme, hear what they want - Cover wide range of issues - Cover highlights of radio programme in newspaper - Translate posters - Get SPC to do local language posters
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Radio programmes for women - 2 TV stations - Videos 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Scattered remote islands - Print media always late 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Start newsletter for women

SUCCESSSES	PROBLEMS OR FAILURES	SOLUTIONS
PAPUA NEW GUINEA		
- <i>Radio</i> women's programmes with trained women's officers	- (700 languages, 1.4m women) - Women too busy to listen to programmes	- More use of tradition - Communication skills for development
- <i>PNG Times & Post Courier</i> have women's programmes	- No money - Women journalists need to be trained to promote women	- Train women journalists to promote women
- <i>Nius Blong Meri</i> Newsletter	- Lack of resources - Lack of communication with women - Not two-way - Misunderstanding about information gathering - we expect women to come to us - Time for information collection	- Need to know: why : who : where - We need to reach out to women to get information - We need to be part of the community.
VANUATU		
	- Lack of staff contribution to women's communication - Need for two-way communication - No information to put on radio programme - No radio manpower	- Radio Women's programme officer - More specific training for women in media

**ADDRESS BY MS FAAU'UGA LUTU ACHIKA ON THE THEME
'WOMEN IN EDUCATION'**

It is a pleasure to sit before you tonight like many of the previous speakers. I hope I am able to follow all those introductions that I have had. I am humbly honoured that I am able to speak to you on the subject, 'Women in Education'.

I came here to learn because there is so much that I do not know about the Pacific, yet I am so proud. I came here as a woman who is very curious and sincerely interested in finding out where the women of the Pacific are, whether they are empowered with the western systems of education and whether they are empowered in other development areas of livelihood. On Sunday morning, I was informed that I would speak to you of this subject, as our own Mrs Mere Betham was unable to attend. For those of you who know Mere and those of who know me, please do not compare us because even though we are both from American Samoa and are both women, we are different. She is older than me - in fact she used to be my teacher in high school, but I hope that she would be proud that I am standing for her tonight.

I hope I will not bore those of you who are here tonight as I share with you my educational experience as a woman and as a change agent. This, I feel, is necessary, because I want you to perceive me as sincere in saying those things which I will say to you tonight about education and about where I feel education is going, especially comments relevant to the area where we live.

I was educated in my elementary years in Western Samoa (I am told that is where my aggressiveness comes from) and in my secondary years at my place of birth, American Samoa, and I was educated there as a practical nurse, not out of choice but out of what my mother thought was appropriate for me. I was then sent away to an unknown island called the United States of America, where I attained an education. After achieving this, I returned home proudly to serve my people in any capacity wherever they needed me. In my capacity of in-service instructor, or tutor as it is called in many of the Pacific islands, I served for two years and then was asked by the Government in 1968 to head the Nursing School for American Samoa.

At that time the school was still referred to as the Practical Nursing Programme and I think it was synonymous with community health nursing. I was reluctant at first, but decided to accept the offer, not necessarily because I was so well prepared, but because I was so headstrong and because I felt that they were my colleague sisters and served my own people, so that I must be able to help; it was my opportunity to prove to American Samoa that I could assist my own people in the educational process which I was most interested in and sent away for.

I was very naive at first and as I settled in to the tasks, which were major, I soon realised that it was *so big*, and talking about spiritual guidance and how much we need it, I often, and this is very true, got on to my knees and in my own silence asked the Lord to give me the courage to change those things that I could change. Let me tell you that it is not easy, because you fight the system, fight old students, fight old attitudes and you fight city life.

The people that you think are your friends are your worst enemies. Nurses are not happy with changes; some walked out from their job when it was decided that the nursing curriculum for American Samoa, after a lot of confrontation, was to be changed from three years to 18 months, in actuality two years. The question is: 'Why is this?' Then the nurses proposed that everyone who graduated from the old system should be called registered nurses. I do not know how these things are relevant to you, but I think the experience in decision-making and the coping with emotions in these situations is very important. Changes can be a crisis in such situations, one in which you need a support system, and I had mine, and that was my Government. Let me tell you that I was not depressed when the sky fell on me. I was so strong and I feel that it is time, it is now *your* time, to make changes, it is time to tell your people that what they are after is wrong, they've got to believe you and CHANGE.

I have a feeling that my people did not accept the change because it was coming from me. Many a times we doubt our own. 'Who is she to tell us, after we have gone through 60 years, when the *palagis* told us that this is the way it should be?' and that is an experience, that is a challenge - a change in education for me. I said to myself and I kept on telling them, it was the *palagis* who told me what I gave them.

After that incident, I returned to school. I wanted to tell my people, especially the women, that for a woman to climb the hierarchy you must have an education. An education is very important. We are not fighting fights any more, we are fighting with our heads. We have got to use our heads properly and wisely, with a great deal of common sense.

I uprooted my family and again went to learn in the United States of America for two years, and when I returned to my old job after two years, the Government indicated to me again that there was a need for improvement in the School of Nursing, in what we called a Registered Nurse Programme. It was a controversial subject and I had a reluctance to begin because of certain facilities needed, I thought, for the programme to succeed. Again, this was the time to do it and I felt a little comfortable now with my people because I felt that my people now respected me and believed that the change that we went through was not so bad after all.

A three-year curriculum for nursing was developed at the Community College where, on graduation, a student was expected to achieve a degree in nursing which was the first in American Samoa. Students were also eligible to sit the national American licensing examination, and when you pass that licensing examination, you can practise anywhere in the United States and its territories, again another first for American Samoa. American Samoa graduated its first pass in 1984 - the students sat for the first examination in 1984. After all that was done, I decided that it was time for me to move on. Now I am promoting adults in continuing education at the same College. I am very much involved with literacy now.

My biggest concern for my own country is that people are not as literate as they appear to be. It is not their own fault, it is because of what was available to them at the time. 'Women in education' is a very broad area. It is so fragmented now that we have women in special education, like elementary and secondary, and we have women in colleges, in universities, women in business education, nursing education, social science education, no matter where you move, women have infiltrated as leaders in those areas. Are they leaders in their areas *and* in their countries?

In education, one must develop or form a philosophy of education. What is that philosophy? It is your belief, and you must have a belief on what education is. Many of us have a dream of a good education, but what is that dream all about? We know already about academic institutions, we know what they consist of and what they have. But you must know what you want and you must be prepared for the tasks that are ahead of you. You must know where you are going.

It is not enough to go to school, you need to know what you are going to school for. Is it really what you want, what are you going to get out of that education? In the Pacific islands, I know, we send the children to school and we let things happen wherever they may fall; that is where education will be, or the termination of education. There is a lot of pride in the achievement of a college degree. But then again we know that if you cannot apply knowledge, it is worthless. You often hear your people talk about someone who has achieved a degree and does not do anything with it. It is like the hero who went to war and does not know the trigger of a gun - so what is the use?

We have a challenge to decide what education is relevant to us. Many times we think only of ourselves, of what is good for our families. We may now be able to say: you become a lawyer, you become a nurse, you become whatever. Those of you that have many children, a plan is probably laid out on who and where your children will be or the profession that they will go into. You want your children to be somebody important. When you do make that plan, do it wisely. That can be a woman's influence on education.

Someone who does not have as many children would probably ask for the type of education that promises the highest paid job. We are so materialistic in our views nowadays. It becomes a 'want list'; and how do you find the best education without money? How do you go about financing education besides asking the Government for scholarships? That is always one resource area, but delegates and women, if you are interested in education, we have got to stop *AHUI*. Start saving for your children's education. You must develop the initiative. You all make the shopping list. It is amazing that you yourselves know, as women, how much money you can put away on many, many things; and that should include education for the children, because education can amount nowadays to a very large sum.

We never think about it. We only think about money when it is time for the children to go to school and then what do we do? We either put pressure unnecessarily on our governments and blame them for unnecessary favouritism to so and so (the reason we do this is because the government has played its role in our life for a long time); or we get so depressed that we crawl into our shells and we do not know where to turn or where to go, because you know you cannot give up all your income or your salary, because there are others to be taken care of. But what happens to that child? This is my child - the one who can achieve. But when everything falls apart, the child ends up being an unskilled worker.

I think our best dream in education is to enhance the availability of an education for our children. There is so much out there and there are so many experts that have written books about these things. But how, in my humble opinion, do we prepare ourselves so that our children get an education? It is a thing that I think should not go away from our minds. Many of us have gone away and have been assisted financially. We have had support. But what is going to happen in the future for those youngsters that continue to strive for a better education in these days of high rates for universities and colleges? How are we going to live with that? Again, is it only those who have money that will be able to go to school? I hope not. For we all know it is not the people who have money whose children are smart. It is not enough to push your child to go to school, it must be meaningful school.

Because I feel education is a life-long learning situation, it should be the most important thing in families of the Pacific islands. We have often talked about changes that have challenged our existence, and how we cannot cope with the changes, and many have blamed us for not being educated.

Education to some may be a gown and a degree, education to others may be a big pay cheque and still yet, education to others may be a big fat head. But, what is it to the women of the Pacific? What is it that they are looking for when they send their children out to schools for better education? I suggest that you find out what your island needs are, assess your children's capabilities and support them through the educational process. Plan for the child's education. Do not wait to the last minute to decide whether he is going or whether he is not going or where he is going. I do not know how many of you can well identify some of the small points that I have raised here tonight, but I hope that what I have been able to do is to bring these matters to the conference level for us all to consider. There is so much to learn, so much to know and our meeting this week has taught me so much that I had not learnt yet. Some say that in education are things that you see and taste. But I think education is something that will stay in your world for life and I do not necessarily mean that you do not learn from the book, but that you can select those things you learn from the book. But I will be a mess if I end my talk tonight and do not mention to you something that I wish to be very frank with.

Women are women's worst enemy. Women encounter a lot of professional jealousies in their work, from other women. Education will not teach us that or should not teach us that. Education should kill those professional jealousies, especially from your own.

I suggest that we all be strong and that we perpetuate love, honesty, and truth amongst women that we work with. Change is inevitable, change is all around us; we must consider that education in our islands must change. We have to ask the question, 'For what?' and 'What will it achieve?'

I hope I will see you some day in my humble country and I thank you very much for listening to me. Again I thank the people of Fiji, in fact the SPC, for sponsoring this beautiful conference that I have enjoyed very much, renewing old acquaintances very surprisingly and meeting new ones.

**RECOMMENDATIONS OF *AD HOC* MEETING TO DISCUSS THE
CETC CURRICULUM ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

A. Composition

1. That the CETC Curriculum Committee be composed of 5 members.
2. That the members be appointed from:
 - * One (1) from each sub-region (Melanesia, Polynesia, Micronesia)
 - * One (1) from the Francophone territories
 - * The Principal of CETC

B. Tenure of Office

1. That the Committee shall hold office for a period of 2-3 years
2. That at the end of their term of office, only three members of the Committee shall vacate their positions; the other two members shall remain to provide continuity; of these, one shall be the Principal of CETC.

C. Responsibilities

The Committee shall evaluate the curriculum to assess its effectiveness and recommend changes to accommodate the needs expressed by the countries of the region.

D. Meetings

The Committee shall meet annually, in Fiji, to review the work of the CETC.

E. Appointment of Members

The members shall be American Samoa (representing Polynesia), Federated States of Micronesia (representing Micronesia), Fiji (representing Melanesia) and French Polynesia (representing the Francophone territories).

F. Funding

SPC shall seek extra-budgetary funds.

**MEETING OF THE FIRST STEERING COMMITTEE OF THE PACIFIC WOMEN'S
REGIONAL NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANISATIONS (PWRNGO)**

(Civic Centre, Suva - Fiji, 22 September, 1988)

The second meeting of the Pacific Women's Regional Non-Governmental Organisations elected a Steering Committee of six (6) to represent the different regions of the Pacific: Melanesia, Polynesia and Micronesia.

The Steering Committee met and made the following decisions:

1. Office Bearers

President	-	Mrs Bungtabu Brown (Melanesia)
Vice President	-	Mrs Faatonu Tuvu (Polynesia)
Secretary	-	Mrs Marilyn Tahi (Melanesia)

2. Immediate Activities

Official Handover from the old Steering Committee of any PWRNGO property was agreed on and that it would take place at the Grand Pacific Hotel (GPH) from 0900 - 1000 hours on 23.9.88.

It was also agreed that the funding agencies would meet and discuss their activities at GPH on 23.9.88 at 0800 - 0900 hours.

3. Future Activities

It was agreed that the Steering Committee will hold meetings when need arises.

Furthermore the Committee agreed that its second meeting will be held in Western Samoa on 21 and 22 November, 1988.

It also decided that the PWRNGO/Regional Conference will sit every two years before the SPC Regional Women's Conference.

The agenda for the second meeting of the Committee in Western Samoa in November will be:

1. Establishing the Secretariat for PWRNGO;
2. PWRNGO Newsletter;
3. Funds for Sub-regional and Regional Conferences.

The Committee agreed to invite funding agencies to pledge their support for the PWRNGO Secretariat and the PWRNGO.

The meeting ended its meeting at 12.20 hours.