

## Pacific Judicial Strengthening Initiative Newsletter

(Issue 2, July 2017)

### Welcoming Remarks

Highlights of our work over the past six months have been the piloting of two important new toolkits on *Human Rights* and *Gender & Family Violence* (see stories overleaf). During this period, a total of 6 bilateral activities; 3 regional workshops and 7 monitoring and evaluation consultations have been delivered. We look forward to continuing to work with partner courts towards our goal of building fairer societies through more accessible, just, efficient and responsive court services.

Dr Livingston Armytage, *PJSI Technical Director*

### Inside this Issue

Welcoming Remarks	1
CJLF and IEC Meetings	2
Project Management & Evaluation Workshop	2
Human Rights Toolkit Pilot	3
Project Management and Planning Visit	4
Upcoming Activities	5
Comments and Feedback	5
New Team Members	6



### Chief Justices' Leadership Forum: Samoa

**Front row (L to R):** Chief Justice Sir John Muria (Kiribati); Chief Justice Patu Sapolu (Samoa); Chief Justice Sir Albert Palmer (Solomon Islands); Chief Justice Dame Sian Elias (Tokelau); Chief Justice Sir Salamo Injia (Papua New Guinea); Chief Justice Dennis Yamase (Federated States of Micronesia).

**Back row (L to R):** Dr Anita Jowitt (PacLII); Mr Lorenz Metzner; Chief Registrar John Alilee (Vanuatu); Chief Justice Carl Ingram (Marshall Islands); Dr Eric Colvin (USP); Chief Justice Charles Sweeney (Tuvalu); Chief Justice Owen Paulsen (Tonga); Dr Livingston Armytage; Chief Justice Arthur Ngraklsong (Palau); Justice Christine Grice (Cook Islands) and Chief Justice Patrick Savage (Niue); Ms Cate Sumner; Ms Elise Trewick.

## Initiative Executive Committee Meeting & Chief Justices' Leadership Forum: Samoa 3-6 April, 2017

A fruitful Chief Justices' Leadership Forum took place between 3-5 April in Apia, paving the way for the implementation of several new key strategies in the region, including endorsement of the: Career Gateway and Pathway activities which aim to institutionalise and improve professional development in the region; draft Human Rights Toolkit; and the draft Gender and Family Violence Toolkit and piloting strategies.

The IEC met on 6 April to accept the Recommendations and discuss Initiative strategy and progress. Welcomed guests from the University of the South Pacific (USP), PaCLII and United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) were also in attendance. The Forum included an update from PaCLII Director and its integral contribution to the operational effectiveness of the Pacific courts, and a discussion on the newly established Judicial Integrity Network.

## Project Management & Evaluation Workshop: Vanuatu 20-24 February, 2017

The Project Management and Evaluation Workshop held in Port Vila commenced this year's regional workshop schedule. A total of 18 participants from 13 PJSI partner courts were able to build their project management skills and strengthen their capacity to produce results through the delivery of projects.

The workshop was also an excellent opportunity for participants to share their individual approaches to maximise positive and sustainable project results. By the end of the workshop, participants had developed a comprehensive Leadership Incentive Fund application including a detailed monitoring and evaluation framework, to present to their court's leadership upon return home. Participants thoroughly enjoyed the workshop with an overall satisfaction rate of 92%.



### Project Management & Evaluation Workshop: Vanuatu

**Front row (L to R):** Mr Peter Michael; Mrs Malia Taufu; Ms Arian Arintetaake; Ms Myonnie Samani; Ms Allison Sengebau; Mr John William; Ms Claudine Henry-Anguna; Ms Belinda Garae; Mrs Wendy Raptigh; Mr Jeongmin Park (New Zealand High Commission)

**Back row (L to R):** Ms Nicole Cherry; Judge Ameperosa Roma; Mr Travis Joe; Mr Joel Shemi; Mr Lorenz Metzner; Ms Fatima Fonua; Mr Albano Lolten; Mrs Florina Toran; Ms Helen Burrows; Ms Apolima Tamo; Mr Darren Tohovaka.  
Absent: Mr Filimone Jitoko

### **Greetings from the Project Management & Evaluation Workshop!**

This was the first time I have participated in a PJSI training workshop. I have learnt a lot of new information to be efficient in my role as the Judicial Development and Training Coordinator for the Supreme Court of Vanuatu. There were 21 participants and facilitators from 13 Pacific Island Countries who attended the Workshop.



The Workshop was developed to promote confidence in leading, designing, delivering, monitoring, and evaluating projects using established steps, processes, methods and tools. I really enjoyed learning about project management and evaluation as it was not something I had thought about before. As training coordinator I will apply these new skills to my role and to future donor funded activities. I now know there are lots of other skills I can also learn to make my work more effective.

The best part for me was how the facilitators used cartoons and examples to explain different topics. This made me understand and connect the topics easily and was a nice way to sum up the information. I also really liked the different group discussions because I was able to learn about the progress of other countries and their projects as well as learn about different perspectives and approaches taken.

Best regards,

*Wendy Raptigh*

PJSI National Coordinator for Vanuatu

## **Human Rights Toolkit Pilot: Solomon Islands 24 April-5 May, 2017**

Dr Carolyn Graydon travelled to the Solomon Islands to pilot the Human Rights Toolkit and gain valuable feedback from participating Judges and court staff.

The pilot provided the opportunity to introduce the Toolkit to users, coupled with a three-day workshop titled 'Human Rights in the Practice of the Solomon Islands'. By encouraging use of the Toolkit we aim to support the development of an institutionalised approach to fostering human rights within the region's courts. Overall, the pilot received very positive feedback and survey results demonstrate that participants developed an increased understanding and appreciation for Human Rights issues within their jurisdiction.

*"The Toolkit will assist the Judiciary in identifying Human Rights issues and resolving such issues through the application of key human rights principles."*



**Dr Graydon and Participants at Toolkit Pilot: Solomon Islands**

## Project Management & Planning Visit: Tokelau 1-12 May, 2017

In line with the Leadership Incentive Fund requirements, Tokelau's application attracted a 2-week Project Management and Planning Visit by Mr Lorenz Metzner. The aim of this visit was to strengthen Tokelau's capacity to competently manage and achieve results through local judicial development activities. Consultations were held in all three villages in Tokelau to gain a better understanding of the local court context. In particular, the visit supported Tokelauan colleagues to develop their: court's first vision / goal; 18-month plan, strategy and planning to implement Tokelau's approved Leadership Incentive Fund project.



**Mr Metzner and Members of the Nukunonu Tapulega: Tokelau**

## Career Gateway: Vanuatu 4-9 June, 2017

In collaboration with the University of South Pacific (USP), the Career Gateway Project has been working to develop an astute curriculum framework. Currently undergoing internal approval, USP aims to introduce a Certificate and Diploma of Justice course within the next year. This will establish institutional capacity to train new and existing lay adjudicators and court staff across the Pacific region.

## Monitoring and Evaluation Consultations

Since January, the PJSI team have carried out focus groups and consultations across 7 Pacific Island Countries, including Vanuatu, Samoa, Palau, Tonga, FSM, Niue and the Solomon Islands. The objective was to gather baseline data regarding justice and the court from informed court users as well as users who may be vulnerable to abuses of their rights and marginalisation within the justice system. This information will inform the results captured in the PJSI Baseline Report.

## Access to Justice: Federated States of Micronesia 13-28 May, 2017

To address the issue of access to justice, the visit to Pohnpei provided training and guidance to judges and clerks on enabling and protecting the rights of unrepresented litigants, as well as developing a clear Access to Justice Action Plan. Dr Livingston Armytage facilitated this activity based on the implementation of the Enabling Rights Toolkit. The visit was effective in increasing the legal competence of Judges and clerks, boosting public awareness of and confidence in the courts' function.



**Remote consultations on Mokil, Federated States of Micronesia**

## Greetings from Pohnpei!

This Access to Justice Workshop was the first of its kind in our nation, and we received an overwhelming amount of positive feedback from participants on its value and significance to our island courts. The aim of the Workshop was to identify issues and barriers that impede the general - public from accessing our courts here in the FSM.



Interviews and community visits on access to the courts were conducted during the week prior to the workshop, and the information collected was discussed during the training among judges and court staff. General and small group interaction and discussions were held to discuss the issues, and solutions and action plans were developed to put words into action.

What I found most interesting during the interviews was how knowledgeable and engaged the citizens in the rural communities were regarding the court system and their individual rights. These individuals expressed the need for more community outreach programs to bring people closer to the justice system.

For me, the best aspect of the training was going out into rural areas and communicating with these individuals about access to the courts. Also, developing a close working relationship with the national, state, and municipal courts was an important development during the exercise.

Best regards,

*Daniel Rescue Jr.*

PJSI National Coordinator for FSM

## Upcoming Activities

A number of upcoming activities are scheduled, including:

- *Local Orientation Visit:*  
Marshall Islands, 9-19 August, 2017
- *Accountability Visit:*  
Palau, 21-25 August, 2017
- *Regional Leadership Workshop:*  
Tonga, 5-7 September, 2017
- *3<sup>rd</sup> Initiative Executive Committee Meeting:*  
Remote, 28 September, 2017
- *Gender & Family Violence Visit:*  
Nauru, 16-27 October, 2017
- *Regional Lay Judicial Officer Orientation:*  
Solomon Islands, 20-24 November, 2017
- *Human Rights Visit:*  
Papua New Guinea, 20 Nov- 1 Dec, 2017.

For a complete list of upcoming PJSI activities and locations, please visit our website:

<http://www.fedcourt.gov.au/pjsi>

## Leadership Incentive Fund

The LIF aims to support the achievement of national courts objectives. The fourth round of LIF applications for *PJSI Partner Courts* will open from 1 August to 30 September, 2017. Please email your applications to: [nicole.cherry@fedcourt.gov.au](mailto:nicole.cherry@fedcourt.gov.au)

## Comments and Feedback

We welcome and appreciate comments or contributions from everyone involved in the PJSI. If you have any feedback or require further information please contact our PJSI team on: [pjsi@fedcourt.gov.au](mailto:pjsi@fedcourt.gov.au)

## New Additions (and returns) to the PJSI Team

### Ms Jennifer Akers: Efficiency Adviser

Jennifer, who returns to PJSI after earlier work on PJDP, is a court management and administration specialist with over 35 years' experience in justice system development and courts. She has worked with organisations and donors such as the World Bank, USAID, NZAid, European Public Law Centre, Federal Court of Australia, UN and Office of the High Representative in over 20 countries across Europe, Asia and the Pacific. Jennifer is a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Management, Adjunct Fellow of the Courts and Tribunals Academy at Victoria University and holds qualifications in social science and law. Career highlights include leading a project to institute the Dayton Peace Agreement Final Arbitral Award for the Brcko District in Bosnia Herzegovina and working with the Pacific Judicial Development Programme as Judicial Administration Adviser.



### Ms Margaret Barron: Training Adviser



Margaret who also returns to PJSI after PJDP, holds advanced qualifications in law and education. She has fifteen years' experience working in rule of law development programs in South East Asia and the Pacific, in both legal advice, drafting and training roles. She continues her role as Lead Training Adviser that she commenced with PJDP Phase 2. In this role, Margaret is responsible for delivering Training-of-Trainer workshops and remote support to regional and national trainers to implement local training activities. Through this, it is aimed that the capacity of judicial and non-judicial officers to design, deliver, assess, and evaluate training activities for their courts will be increased.

### Mr Enoka Puni: Training Adviser

Enoka, who is well known across the region, is a former Samoan judge and a respected judicial educator with the Pacific region. He has designed, developed and delivered a range of judicial development and training activities for both legally-trained and lay judicial and court officers under Pacific Judicial Education Programme, Pacific Judicial Development Programme Phase 1 and also independently.



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