

# Regional judges' conference underway

The Pacific Judicial Development Programme's (PJDP) Regional Judicial Lay Orientation workshop is currently underway in Honiara.

The workshop is being attended by 30 lay judicial officers across ten countries in the Pacific.

It was opened by the Chief Justice, Sir Albert Palmer. Speaking at the opening Sir Albert Palmer said he was pleased to welcome lay judicial officers from the Cook Islands, FSM, Kiribati, Niue, Samoa, Tokelau, Tonga, Vanuatu and of course the Solomon Islands to this important workshop.

PJDP is a Pacific development programme funded by the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade which is managed by the Federal Court of Aus-



Chief Justice Sir Albert Palmer, sitting in front, with all the participants.

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The purpose of the programme and workshop is to promote the rule of law by building the professional competence of lay judicial officers and court officers, and to enhance the processes and systems that they use.

The distinguished fac-

ulty includes the Deputy Chief Justice, the Hon Sir Gibbs Salika from Papua New Guinea, the Hon Justice Peter Boshier from New Zealand, Justice Tony Pagone from the Federal Court of Australia, and other experienced judges from the Solomon Islands and across the region.

The Chief Justice, Sir Albert Palmer introduced the technical program with a detailed lecture on the role of judicial and court officers.

This 5-day workshop began with a preliminary day before official commencement yesterday and will continue until Friday.