



# Pacific Judicial Development Programme Newsletter - Issue 2

## Welcoming Remarks

Welcome back! Since our last newsletter and the approval of the 18-month Implementation Plan, the PJDP Team has been focused on laying the groundwork to launch the Programme's activities. This has included working on: confirming the development priorities of each partner court; recruiting advisers (details overleaf); starting a number of the PJDP's regional and in-country activities; relaunching the PJDP website; and scheduling the next Programme Executive Committee meeting and the National Coordinator's Leadership Workshop.

We have a busy year ahead with many activities taking place. We look forward to continuing to work with our colleagues across the region to ensure that all PJDPs activities address each country's needs.

Dr. Livingston Armytage, *PJDP Team Leader*

*The Programme Executive Committee:  
The PJDP's Leadership Group (Guam 2010)*



## What we have done since January 2011

Over the past few months, the PJDP has been undertaking a range of planning and preparatory activities that have been time consuming. These activities have allowed the Programme to start in-country and regional activities. Details of the activities undertaken include:

### **Confirming national priorities**

As part of the 18-month Implementation Plan, a range of activities were designed for the benefit of individual countries. One of the key activities undertaken since January has been consulting with all partner courts to rank the importance of these activities in light of how they each meet the development priorities of their court. This prioritisation process was undertaken by partner courts to assist the PJDP Team to determine where individual activities should be located.

As a result of the prioritisation, activities will be delivered as follows:

- **Customary Dispute Resolution Research Project:** Federated States of Micronesia (Priority 1); Republic of Marshall Islands (Priority 1); and Samoa (Priority 1).
- **Codes of Judicial Conduct Project:** Kiribati (Priority 1); Niue (Priority 1); and Tuvalu (Priority 2).
- **Revised Benchbook Project:** Cook Islands (Priority 1).
- **Judicial Administration Diagnostic Project:** Solomon Islands (Priority 1); Tonga (Priority 1); and Vanuatu (Priority 1).
- **Judicial Monitoring and Evaluation Project:** Papua New Guinea - National Courts and Magistrates' Service (Priority 2); Palau (Priority 1); and Tokelau (Priority 1).

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*PJDP is implemented by the Federal Court of Australia with the support of New Zealand MFAT.*



## **Recruiting PJDP technical advisers and experts**

To deliver the activities under the approved 18-month Implementation Plan, the PJDP Team has undertaken an intensive recruitment process to identify and contract professional and experienced individuals with the skills to deliver approved activities to the highest standard. Ten experts and advisers have now joined our team. Five new team members started work on the PJDP before the end of May, they are:

### **Codes of Judicial Conduct Expert:** *Ms. Kerin Pillans*



is a barrister from England and has been a Justice of the Peace (magistrate) since 2002. Kerin also has substantial experience with justice development projects in the Asia and the Pacific. She worked for a year with the Pacific Judicial Education Programme, and through that work gained a

strong awareness of the challenges facing the development and use of codes of judicial conduct in the region.

### **Customary Dispute Resolution Research Adviser:**

*Mr. Matthew Zurstrassen* has extensive experience in access to justice issues through the Asia-Pacific region, including leading policy-orientated research on customary dispute resolution processes. Most recently he has been Team Leader of the Justice for the Poor Program in Indonesia - a World Bank programme examining the links between justice sector reform and community development. Matthew has led research on better understanding how communities resolve grievances, how the interface between local dispute resolution mechanisms and the formal legal system can be improved and how justice issues affect broader development objectives.



### **Training-of-Trainers - Certified Provider:** *Ms.*

*Margaret Barron* has over twenty years' experience developing and delivering justice sector training programmes. She has significant experience in the development, delivery, and assessment of training-of-trainers (ToT). In addition to her long-term training and educational activities in South Australia, Margaret has also provided technical assistance and training in Lao PDR. She is the author of a business law textbook that is used widely in the Australian education sector.



### **ToT Training Expert:** *Mr. Enoka Puni* is a former



Samoa judge and a respected judicial educator within the Pacific region, who will co-present the ToT. He has designed, developed and delivered a range of judicial development and trainings activities for both legally-trained and lay judicial and court officers under Pacific Judicial

Education Programme, PJDP Phase 1, and independently.

### **Judicial Administration Diagnostic Adviser:** *Ms.*

*Jennifer Ehmann* has considerable experience both internationally and in Australia providing advisory and technical assistance in court management and administration reform. Her experience includes over ten years as a senior international consultant working on court and parliamentary reform, court administration, as well as almost 20 years' experience in various registry and related roles in the New South Wales courts.



The profiles of the PJDP leadership group and remaining advisers will be provided in upcoming newsletters.

## **Launch of the revised PJDP website**

We are pleased to announce that PJDPs website has been re-launched and can be found at: <http://www.paclii.org/pjdp/>. We are extremely grateful to the team at the Pacific Legal Information Institute (PacLII) in Port Vila for hosting the website.

The website contains information about the Programme, its projects and activities and will in the future contain a lot of the material generated by the Programme. We hope the website will be a useful resource for our colleagues across the Pacific region involved and interested in PJDPs work and progress.

## PJDP Phase 2: What we're doing from April 2011 onwards

A number of activities will take place over the coming months, in addition to ongoing discussions with partner courts to plan and organise activities commencing later in 2011. Activities to begin shortly include:

### **Programme Executive Committee (PEC) Meeting**

To ensure that the PEC is fully briefed about PJDP's activities, the second PEC Meeting is scheduled to take place between 26-28 June, 2011, in Rarotonga. The meeting will: review progress of the PJDP; enable feedback to be provided to the PJDP Team; and provide an opportunity for the strategic direction of the Programme to be fine-tuned, if required.

The Programme would like to thank Cook Islands and our partner court there for hosting this activity.

### **National Coordinator's Leadership Workshop**

In addition to settling the timing of the next PEC Meeting, the PEC has also confirmed the date for the National Coordinators' Leadership Workshop. The Leadership Workshop will be held from 20-24 June, 2011, in Rarotonga. Holding the workshop adjacent to the PEC meeting will: maximise the availability of those individuals participating in both meetings; provide some cost efficiencies, and assist our host the Cook Islands and the PJDP Team with organisational and scheduling.

### **Activity Update**

Provided below is an update of what is happening with each project started or due to start soon:

- **Customary Dispute Resolution (CDR) Research Project:** Matthew is visiting Samoa and is holding a series of discussions with a broad range of people to understand how formal and informal justice systems currently work and how they might work more closely together. He will visit other participating partner courts from July.
- **Codes of Judicial Conduct Project:** Kerin visited Niue in early May to develop with the High Court a code of judicial conduct. The code was completed and approved soon after and is currently being translated so it can be used by everyone who needs it. Kerin then visited Tuvalu in late May, and will visit Kiribati after the National Coordinators' Leadership Workshop.
- **Training of Judicial and Court Officer Trainers (ToT):** A two-week 'Level 2' training programme is underway in Kosrae for participants. It is scheduled to finish on 10 June.
- **Judicial Administration Diagnostic Project:** Jennifer is visiting Vanuatu to work with a range of people to review current judicial administration systems. Jennifer will visit other participating partner courts later this year.
- **Responsive Fund Mechanism:** submission of applications under the Fund will begin in late June following the National Coordinators' Leadership workshop.

Other activities will start in coming months. The PJDP Team will continue to communicate with National Coordinators to plan and schedule all planned activities.

### **Comments and feedback**

We welcome and appreciate feedback from everyone involved in the PJDP along with any contributions, information, or materials which we can use for future editions of our newsletter. If you have any feedback or contributions, please contact the:

- International Programmes Manager, Mr. Lorenz Metzner at: [lorenz.metzner@fedcourt.gov.au](mailto:lorenz.metzner@fedcourt.gov.au); or
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### **Technical Pool Expressions of Interest**

PJDP continues to add to its pool of experts who can be called upon to provide technical assistance to the Programme's activities. In particular, we are seeking experienced advisers from *within* the Pacific region. If you are interested in being involved in Phase 2, please contact us.