

Fifth International Symposium on Career Development and Public Policy

Pacific Careers Network Communiqué

Introduction

The Fifth International Symposium on Career Development and Public Policy was held in Wellington, New Zealand from the 14-17 November 2009. The symposium was hosted by Career Services¹ and was the first time that Pacific countries were part of it. It brought together representatives from 24 different countries from around the world including 14 Pacific representatives from Cook Islands (1), Niue (2), Samoa (1), Solomon Islands (4), Tonga (5), and the South Pacific Board for Educational Assessment (1).

Aim

The symposium explored social, economic and technological trends in the global labour market and how nations can cooperate to build better networks for improving career development opportunities for their citizens.

Outcome

One of the significant outcomes of the symposium was the establishment of the Pacific Careers Network (PCN). The vision for the Network is to:

“Provide Pacific people with a better quality of life”.

As a working definition, “careers” is defined as: *“A lifestyle concept that involves the sequence of work, learning, community and leisure activities in which one engages in consultation with his/her family through a lifetime”.* This definition will be continuously improved over time to arrive at a contextually appropriate definition that captures all related activities for the Pacific countries.

The Pacific Island Country participants agreed that the South Pacific Board for Educational Assessment (SPBEA) will host the PCN.

Functions

It is expected that the Pacific Careers Network will:

- Support, enable, facilitate policy development in careers guidance, advisory and careers development
- Better coordinate relevant activities currently scattered in various government Ministries in each Pacific Island Country
- Share experiences, learning and developments
- Pooling resources in order to support and strengthen developments of national programs
- Facilitate the development of policies re-career development

¹ New Zealand government's agency for providing independent career information and advice



- Facilitate exchange of job opportunities and careers related information
- Facilitate the implementation of the Pacific Island Countries Trade Agreement (PICTA) agreement as necessary and appropriate
- Identifying and promoting skills and early intervention in particular opportunities in Secondary school
- Customise services to each countries' career development needs

Partners in development:

The Pacific Careers Network will work closely with the New Zealand Careers Services in getting the initial required stages established and will call on other relevant agencies such as the Education Training Foundation (ETF), European Lifelong Guidance Policy Network (ELGPN), International Centre for Career Development and Public Policy (ICCDPP), Career industry Council of Australia (CICA) for their support as necessary.

Next Steps

The success of the PCN will be decided through completion of the following initial activities over the next twelve months. Consolidation and expansion through informing other Pacific Island Countries through this Communiqué and though other means available will be explored.

Step	Task	Due date	By whom
1	Develop a joint statement (communiqué) from the Pacific countries to support/mandate the work of officials as they return to their individual countries to gain support from their ministers/government one week from the conference	27 Nov 09	Draft developed by Career Services, circulated to all member for feedback
	Final communiqué	4 Dec	Career Services
2	Draft report of proceedings/discussions from Pacific meetings 1 month from conference.	8 Dec 09	Career Services to draft report, circulate to all members for feedback
	Final Report	18 Dec 09	Career Services
3	Countries to send national career development progress plans to SPBEA.	30 Jun 2010	All countries to submit papers to SPBEA
4	Pacific Careers Networks next meeting	TBC (12 Months from symposium)	



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 Fifth International Symposium on Career Development and Public Policy
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