

The Ministers of Culture and Arts of the Melanesian Spearhead Group (MSG) will convene on 6-7 October 2011 in Honiara to continue their discussions on cultural cooperation and explore ways to assist the Solomon Islands successfully host the 11th Festival of Pacific Arts in July 2012.

Cultural cooperation is a cornerstone for the development of culture and arts within the MSG region and the Solomon Islands will be able to benefit from such established cooperation between MSG Members.

At their inaugural meeting in Kone, New Caledonia during the 4th Melanesian Arts Festival in September 2010, Ministers of Culture and Arts highlighted that technical and financial development cooperation assistance for arts and culture can be provided between MSG members in order to facilitate the development of culture and arts in Melanesia.

While attending the meeting in Honiara next this week, Ministers of Culture and Arts will visit sites of the 2012 Festival of Pacific Arts.

The Meeting is also expected to discuss cultural policy issues and take stock of progress made since the last Ministers of Culture and Arts Meeting in Kone, New Caledonia in areas such as the development of cultural education, cultural infrastructure, the protection of traditional knowledge and expressions of culture, and cultural cooperation.