





MSG SUCCESSFULLY CONCLUDES MINISTERS AND COUNCIL OF ARTS & CULTURE MEETINGS, IN PORT MORESBY, PAPUA NEW GUINEA (PNG), 9-11 OCTOBER 2013

The Members and Observers recently conclude two important meetings hosted by the Government of Papua New Guinea in Port Moresby from 9-11 October. The first was a meeting of the Council of Arts & Culture (CACM) which comprises of Permanent Secretaries and Directors of Tourism, Arts & Culture which met on 9-10 October and the Ministers of Culture and Arts (MCAM) who met on 11 October 2013.

The MCAM was chaired by Mr Yvon Fua of the Front de Liberation Nationale Kanak et Socialiste (FLNKS) Political Bureau of New Caledonia whilst the CACM was chaired by Mr

Charles Wea, also of the FLNKS Political Bureau of New Caledonia. This was the first time both Mr Fuaa and Mr Wea chaired these constituent bodies of the MSG since the FLNKS took over the Chairmanship of the MSG in June 2013 at the 19th MSG Leaders Summit in New Caledonia.

The MCAM and CACM were quite successful and Chairs of both meetings were very pleased with the results. They commended the members for their contributions to the issues discussed which included the MSG Treaty on the Protection of Traditional Knowledge and Expressions of Culture, the first ever treaty signed by any regional organization; Cultural Cooperation with the MSG which included discussions on the MOU on Cultural Cooperation signed by members in 2012; the Regional Cultural Strategy; National Cultural Public Infrastructure Programme 2014-2016; Cultural Education Strategy; Resolutions of the 4th Melanesian Arts and Cultural Festival (MACF) 2010 on Culture and Language symposiums; Preparations for the 5th Melanesian Arts and Culture Festival (MACF) to be hosted by PNG in 2014; United Nations Educational and Scientific Organisation (UNESCO) Conventions; and Update on the Alternative Indicators of Well-Being (AIWBM) regional pilot activities

The Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) based in Noumea and the UNESCO Office in Apia were not able to send participants but contributed papers to the meeting on the Regional Cultural Strategy (SPC) and the UNESCO Conventions (UNESCO) which were positively considered and endorsed by Ministers. 'The endorsement of the proposals submitted by regional partners will see significant changes in the way members uphold their commitments to regional initiatives and international conventions and in this regard, I am quite pleased with the Outcomes', said Mr Fuaa.

On preparations for the 5th MACF, both Mr Fuaa and Mr Wea said the members were impressed with the support by the Government of PNG towards the festival preparations and commended Hon. Boka Kondra, Minister of Tourism, Arts and Culture of PNG and the Festival Organizing Committee led by Dr Jacob Simet, Director of the National Cultural Commission of PNG for their leadership of the Festival Preparations. Members of the MSG also expressed their appreciation to the Government of PNG for organizing a site visit to Alotau, Milne Bay Province which will play host as one of the satellite venues during the 5th MACF. Other satellite venues yet to be visited include Mt. Hagen, Kokopo and Wewak.

Mr Fuaa added, 'our Members and Observers as well as invited guests of the host, are keen to attend the Festival in 2014 which is scheduled around the PNG school holidays from 28 June-11 July 2014 and should showcase the unique, rich and vibrant Melanesian Culture. We will also organize symposiums that will feature current topics of interest to members in the promotion, protection and preservation of our arts and culture'.

The 5th MACF is one of the most important events on the MSG Calendar of the MSG as it is held every four years and the hosting of this important event will complete the rotation cycle of hosting of the Festival. The event was first hosted by Solomon Islands in the late 90s; Vanuatu in 2002; Fiji in 2006; the FLNKS in 2010 and now PNG in 2014. Solomon Islands will host after PNG, in 2018.

Apart from the members of the MSG, Fiji, FLNKS, PNG, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu, the Observers of the MSG which include the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste and the Republic of Indonesia were also invited to attend the meetings.

Authorized by the Director General

MSG Secretariat
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Port Vila, Vanuatu