



MELANESIAN TOK

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MSG Secretariat
Secretariat du GFLM
Melanesian Spearhead Group | Le Groupe Fer de Lance Mélanésien

Achieving **Economic Prosperity**, a core objective of the **MSG 2038: Prosperity for All Plan!**

A bi-monthly newsletter to inform readers about key work activities undertaken at the MSG Secretariat, particularly under the EU-funded Pacific Integrated Technical Assistance Project (PITAP) to improve trade policy outcomes by building technical capacity, increasing private sector engagement in policy making processes and increasing exports and investments for MSG Members.

FROM THE DIRECTOR GENERAL'S DESK



Director General, Mr Peter Forau

After 25 years of existence, the Melanesian Spearhead Group Secretariat is entering an exciting era as it continues to build on its achievements for the benefit of Melanesians in both urban and rural areas. Strategies for the next 25 years were articulated by our Eminent Persons Group in their report, entitled *MSG 2038: Prosperity for All Plan*, the core objectives of which are Political Stability, Economic Prosperity, Social Equality and Inclusivity; and Sustainable Development.

Economic integration has advanced considerably through the MSG Trade Agreement, which is currently being reviewed to extend its coverage from just Goods to also include Trade in Services, Labor Mobility, Government Procurement and Investment. Support from the EU through the Pacific Integrated Trade Assistance Project or PITAP, will further enhance economic integration by building technical capacity within Member governments as well as with the private sector and civil society groups including local communities.

The drive towards freer trade and investment has been given additional impetus with the signing of the Port Moresby Declaration by our Trade Ministers last November. The ultimate commitment under the

Declaration is the achievement of free trade between MSG countries by 2017. The fundamental aim here is for intra-MSG trade and investment to grow, resulting in inclusive benefits for businesses and our people, including the youth and isolated communities.

Melanesian Tok is thus to become the key medium for disseminating information to keep stakeholders in the public sector, business community and civil society groups, abreast with progress on our collective pursuit of an integrated, secure, environmentally sustainable and culturally sensitive Melanesian economy. Readers are thus urged to also provide us with feedback on relevant issues they may wish to raise. So let us begin to *Tok* then! Lastly, I wish you all a productive new year.

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COMMON ABBREVIATIONS

ACP - African, Caribbean and the Pacific	BizClim - ACP Business Climate Facility
EDF - European Development Fund	EPG - Eminent Persons Group
FLNKS - Front de Libération Nationale Kanak et Socialiste	
HIPA+IOM - Heads of Investment Promotion Agencies & Industry Officials Meeting	
IPA - Investment Promotion Agency	IUCN - International Union for Conservation of Nature
MOU - Memorandum of Understanding	MSGTA3 - Melanesian Spearhead Group Trade Agreement 3
MSME - Micro, Small & Medium Enterprise	MTEC - Micronesian Trade and Economic Community
OCTA - Office of the Chief Trade Adviser	PACER - Pacific Agreement on Closer Economic Relations
PIFS - Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat	PIPSO - Pacific Islands Private Sector Organisation
PITAP - Pacific Integration and Technical Assistance Project	
PNG - Papua New Guinea	PSD - Private Sector Development
PT&I - Pacific Trade & Invest	SPC - Secretariat of the Pacific Community
UN - United Nations	WTO - World Trade Organisation

PORT MORESBY DECLARATION ADOPTED



High-level officials and business practitioners converged into Port Moresby, PNG in late November 2014 for the MSG Trade Fair and Trade Ministerial Meeting which were opened by the Prime Minister,

Hon. Peter O'Neill and the Deputy Prime Minister, Hon Leo Dion, respectively.

The Trade Ministers signed the Port Moresby Declaration on 26 November under the chairmanship of PNG Trade Minister, Hon. Richard Maru. With "*Securing MSG Prosperity through Trade and Economic Integration*" as its theme, the Declaration is aimed at deepening MSG trade relations and economic integration.

The Declaration stipulates a Free Trade Area, Double

Taxation Treaties and an Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement by 2017. These initiatives are to be preceded by the conclusion of MSGTA3 negotiations on Goods and Services, a Private Sector



Development Strategy, a Shipping Study, and an MSG Travel Card in 2015.

The MSGTA3 also covers a Skills Movement Scheme and improved Customs-

Biosecurity co-operation. Investments and business-to-business linkages via the Investment Roadshow and Trade Fair, a Roadmap on Inshore Fisheries Management and Sustainable Development, the establishment of a Development and Investment Fund and an Emergency Stabilization Fund by Finance Ministers in collaboration with their Central Bank Governors and Superannuation Fund CEOs are also to be pursued. The Secretariat's Work Program for 2015 will focus largely on these commitments.

Funding for the events in Port Moresby was jointly provided by the PNG Government and the EU.

SALES BOOM AT TRADE FAIR



The MSG Trade Fair held at Port Moresby's Murray Barracks on 27-29 November registered overwhelming success as exhibitors from Member countries recorded strong sales and secured new orders, not only through their exhibition booths but also from their visits for on-site consultations with major PNG importers and distributors. A capacity building workshop held on 25 November in collaboration with the

PIFS' PT&I Beijing Office equipped participants, including women and youth entrepreneurs, with skills for more effective participation in trade exhibitions. An Investment Symposium on 27 November allowed officials to promote investment opportunities and incentives, and enabled representatives from PIFS' WTO Geneva & PT&I Beijing Offices, the University of Fiji and PNG Indigenous Business Council to discuss key

policy issues affecting intra-MSG and international trade and investment. Contributors to the policy discussions included private sector representatives who were also able to establish networks and negotiate deals.



SUPPORT FOR MICRONESIAN INTEGRATION

The economic partnership between MSG and the Micronesian Trade and Economic Community (MTEC) is poised to grow stronger, following the participation of Hon. Marion Henry, Head of the Pohnpei-based MTEC Secretariat, as an Observer at the MSG Trade Ministerial Meeting and Investment Roadshow which were held in Port Moresby. Technical

assistance to MTEC was initiated through policy advisory support rendered by MSG's Program Manager Trade & Investment (PMTI), John Licht, at a workshop in Koror, Palau back in June 2014, the outcomes of which helped with preparatory works for the MTEC Treaty that the Micronesian Leaders signed on 03 September 2014 during the margins of the Small Islands Developing States (SIDS) Con-

ference in Apia, Samoa. "The future looks bright for an enhanced partnership, and complementarity between MTEC and MSG for the greater integration of the Pacific region," Hon. Henry highlighted. Further opportunities for MTEC-MSG collaboration are being considered for 2015 covering the areas of sub-regional trade policy and facilitation, as well as investment policy and private sector development.



Hon. Henry at the Roadshow

NEW STAFF RECRUITMENTS

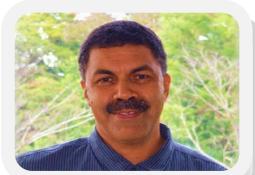
The Secretariat has recruited new PITAP staff members including Mr Henry Sanday of Fiji as Private Sector Development Advisor (PSDA), Mrs Eleni Tevi also of Fiji as Capacity Development Adviser (CDA), and Ms Tendai Chigwada of Zimbabwe as Research Analyst.

Prior to this appointment, Henry was involved in various assignments with the Office of Commerce & Investment in Majuro, Republic of Marshall Islands and the Pacific Offices of the EU-funded Centre for the Development of Enterprise and NZAID-funded Commonwealth Local Government Forum. He was the founding Executive Officer for

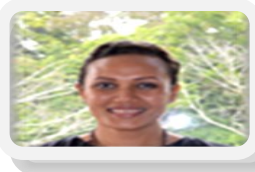
PIPSO after having served PIFS as Investment Policy Officer, and the Fiji Trade and Investment Board as Senior Industries Officer.

Eleni was previously the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights Help Desk for the EU Delegation for the Pacific based in Suva. She was contracted by the Government of Tonga to develop their proposal for the Support for Non-State Actors and Private Sector Associations under the 10th EDF. Following that, Eleni conducted the mid-term review of the Fiji Community Development Program on behalf of Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

Tendai has extensive trade policy analysis skills. She was previously with the Trade and Development Studies Centre in Zimbabwe as Director and Lead Consultant. In her role there, she was responsible for managing a team in support of African Renaissance through analyses of WTO, ACP-EU Economic Partnership Agreements, Regional Integration, China's development agenda, undertaking training advocacy and liaising with donors. She was also responsible for project identification, formulation and implementation. Tendai has had experiences with Eastern and Southern African countries, PIFS and TradeCom.



Henry



Eleni



Tendai

PROCUREMENT TRAINING CONDUCTED



PITAP Procurement workshop in progress

A capacity building workshop on PITAP's Financial and Procurement Procedures for MSG and OCTA staff was held at the OCTA Conference Room in Port Vila on 17-18 December. PMTI John Licht, CDA Eleni Tevi and PSDA Henry Sanday represented MSG at the workshop, which was facilitated by Mr Jerry Huekwahin and Mr Rama Va'a of PIFS. Its sessions covered an Overview of PITAP and its Budget, PIFS Procurement Policies and Proce-

dures, EU Project Financial Reporting, Narrative Reporting and the Development, Budgeting and Scheduling of Work Plans. They were supplemented with practical exercises and interactive discussions between the participants as well as with the facilitators. The workshop was considered by its participants as useful, as both MSG and OCTA were preparing then for their respective 2015 Work Programmes, as well as for the audit of their 2014 accounts which is scheduled for early March 2015.



The MSG Chair, Mr Victor Tutugoro of the FLNKS, visited the Secretariat on 28 October during a busy schedule that included courtesy calls on the Prime Minister of Vanuatu, Hon. Joe Natuman and his Cabinet Ministers. It was Mr Tutugoro's second visit since taking up the MSG Chairmanship from Fiji in 2013. The Chair held a briefing with the

Director General, Mr Peter Forau, and Directors on the Secretariat's work programme before meeting with staff over lunch. Following commitments he made at these meetings, Mr Tutugoro attended the MSG Trade Fair in Port Moresby as part of efforts to strengthen economic relations between his country and MSG Members. The Chairmanship will be handed over to Solomon Islands in mid-2015 during the MSG Leaders Summit in Honiara.

MSG CHAIR MEETS STAFF



Chair, Mr Tutugoro, with Secretariat staff

TALKS ON VANUATU SMALL BUSINESSES



L-R: Ridley, David, John, Henry and Peni

As part of plans to consult with national stakeholders engaged in small business development, an MSG delegation visited Mr Ridley Joseph, Acting Director, Department of Co-operatives and Ni-Vanuatu Business Development on 05 November. Mr Peni Sikivou, Director for Trade Investment & Economic Development, led the delegation which included PMTI John Licht, Mr David Hopa, Program Manager Economic Development and PSDA Henry Sanday.

Issues concerning the 14,000 co-operatives, indigenous-owned, rural-based enterprises located throughout the country's six Provinces of Malampa, Penama, Sanma, Shefa, Tafea and

Torba, were discussed together with the Department's institutional capacity needs and 2015 Work Plan. The meeting led to the invitation for Ridley to share Vanuatu's experiences on small business development at the MSG Investment Symposium in Port Moresby during November. The Trade Fair also gave him the opportunity to network with exhibitors and buyers interested to do business with Ni-Vanuatu enterprises. It is anticipated that the Department's partnership with MSG will continue and is to entail collaborative undertakings with other MSG Cooperatives.

VANUATU OUTREACH GATHERS MOMENTUM



L-R: Pastor Shem, Bishop Ligo, Eleni and Henry

Following consultations with the Department of Co-operatives and Ni-Vanuatu Business, PSDA Henry Sanday met with Ms Astrid Boulekone, General Manager of the Vanuatu Chamber of Commerce & Industry (VCCI) at her office on 16 December. Discussions focused on the Port Moresby Declaration, particularly on the achievement of a Free Trade Area by 2017, the feedback from exhibitors at the MSG

Trade Fair, and the Chamber's activities and 2015 work plan.

Consultations were then held at the Secretariat on 19 December with the Vanuatu Christian Council (VCC), which is involved in development projects aimed at improving the welfare of Church members throughout the country. Henry and CDA Eleni Tevi met with VCC Chairman, Bishop James Ligo, and Secretary, Pastor Shem Tema. Be-

sides the need to support the Council's institutional capacity, its leaders were particularly interested in enhancing the capability of their members including school leavers and youth to generate income through employment and micro-enterprise development. The Secretariat's plans for 2015 were discussed with both VCCI and VCC, and it was agreed that collaboration with both entities needs to be strengthened.

TALKING GREEN GROWTH



Ruci

Mutual benefits from an MOU signed last year between the MSG Secretariat and the Suva-based IUCN Pacific regional office are being realized. Funding from the ACP-EU Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Co-operation ACP-EU in support of the MSG Green Growth Knowledge Management (GGKM) e-Platform, enabled the engagement of Ms Ruci Mafi Botei of IUCN on 24 November

for a four-month undertaking to redesign and enhance content development for the GGKM e-Platform. Hosted on the Secretariat's website, the Platform provides the medium for online discussions on improving and supporting the exchange of agricultural and rural development information. The Platform will also facilitate knowledge acquisition and the sharing of best practices that enhance the adoption

and utilization of Green Growth principles. This collaborative mechanism is linked to the MSG Leaders' 2012 Declaration on Environment and Climate Change, and is in harmony with the EPG's recommendation for ensuring that "sustainable development goals are developed and mainstreamed into national and sectoral development planning, policy formulation, programming and implementation".

ACP PSD STRATEGY APPROVED

The 100th Session of the ACP Council of Ministers held in Brussels on 09-12 December approved the ACP Strategy for Private Sector Development 2015-2019. The draft version of the Strategy was tabled at a High-Level Symposium, held also in Brussels on 10-11 November that PSDA Henry Sanday attended. EU funding through BizClim enabled the participation of private sector representatives from PNG, Vanuatu, Cook Islands, Samoa, and Tonga, as well as senior officials from PIFS and PIPSO.

Fijian, Samoan and ni-Vanuatu diplomats stationed in Brussels were also present. The approved PSD Strategy includes four pillars of intervention, which are: improving the business climate; developing entrepreneurship and MSMEs; increasing access to financing for MSMEs; and strengthening MSME access to national and international markets, while promoting regional integration. The new ACP Strategy will be beneficial to the Secretariat's key 2015 activity of formulating an MSG PSD Strategy, which is stipulated under the



ACP PSD Symposium in session

the Port Moresby Declaration. The Secretariat acknowledges the support from H.E. Roy Mickey Joy, Ambassador of Vanuatu to the EU, in facilitating the Pacific's representation and final approval of the Strategy. The Secretariat also congratulates H.E. Joy for his assumption of the Chair of the ACP Committee of Ambassadors from February to July 2015. This milestone for the Pacific was announced at the conclusion of the Symposium.

PNG MINISTERS VISIT SECRETARIAT



The Secretariat hosted visits by PNG's Minister for Finance, Hon. James Marape and Minister for Trade, Hon. Richard Maru, who also attended the Staff Christmas Party on 18 December. Hon Maru paid courtesy calls to the

Prime Minister of Vanuatu, Hon. Joe Natuman, Cabinet Ministers and VCCI members. He reaffirmed support for the Port Moresby Declaration, including the PNG-funded Shipping Study on linking MSG capitals and major ports of entry. To enhance intra-MSG trade and investments, Hon. Maru noted the significance of Travel Visa Cards which are to be ready in 2015, and the opportunity for a Pacific Trade Fair during the XV Pacific

Games in Port Moresby in July 2015. Bilaterally, the Minister revealed plans for a PNG Trade Fair and Business Centre in Port Vila, to lure PNG investors, offer up to 120 scholarships for ni-Vanuatu students to study in PNG, open a High Commission in Port Vila, and the upgrading of the Kumul Highway. Similar visits by the Minister to Fiji and New Caledonia are scheduled for early 2015.



SOLOMON ISLANDS OFFICIALS CALL IN

Two senior officials of the Government of Solomon Islands were hosted at the Secretariat during their visit to Port Vila to attend a workshop on PACER Plus Trade in Services, which was jointly organized by OCTA and WTO. Mr George Tuti, Enhanced Integrated Framework-National Implementation Unit Coordinator, Department of External Trade, and Mrs Lynette Dawheya, Deputy Director, For-

eign Investment Division (FID), Department of Commerce, Industries and Employment, met with DTIED Peni Sikivou and PSDA Henry Sanday on 28 October for discussions on the trade and investment policy work that their respective departments were engaged in. They were provided with an overview of the Secretariat's priority activities and plans for the new year, 2015, especially on PSD activi-

ties under PITAP. As their country's Investment Promotion Agency, FID together with their MSG counterparts, is expected to participate and benefit directly from the investment policy advisory support that the Secretariat will include in its 2015 Work Programme. The new year is obviously going to be a busy one for Solomon Islands as it assumes the MSG Chair, taking over from the FLNKS.



Boatbuilding industry in Honiara

INSHORE FISHERIES EDUCATION IN VANUATU



Workshop participants

Following its endorsement by Leaders in 2012, the MSG Roadmap for Inshore Fisheries Management and Sustainable Management is now being jointly implemented by the MSG Secretariat and SPC. Both organizations recognize the urgency of sustainable inshore fisheries management since the majority of Melanesian populations are dependent on inshore fishery resources for their subsistence and local economic needs. In line with the second of the

Roadmap's three objectives, that is, for educating and raising stakeholder awareness on this particular natural resource, a national consultation workshop attended by Vanuatu fisheries and education officials was conducted on 20 January jointly by staff of the Fisheries, Aquaculture & Marine Ecosystems Division of SPC and staff of the MSG Secretariat. Dr Mike King, the consultant contracted by SPC to carry out this work, was scheduled to be in Vanuatu in

late February to collect information on local fisheries and the education system. An undertaking has thus been made to develop a resource kit for Vanuatu school teachers that would contain basic information on fishery-related issues, suggested exercises and activities for primary and secondary students, learning outcomes and curriculum linkages. It is anticipated that the resource kit would be ready by June 2015.

CULTURE AND SUSTAINABLE NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

***MSG LEADERS,
IN 2012,
PLEGDED TO
PROMOTE
NATURE
CONSERVATION,
AND TO
PROTECT BOTH
OFF-SHORE AND
IN-SHORE
FISHERIES***

Melanesian communities are to benefit from an MOU signed last year between the MSG Secretariat and Griffith University which links directly to the 2012 Leaders' Declaration on Environment and Climate Change that includes Green Growth, Terrestrial and Marine Commitment for Sustainable Development. For these communities, sustainable agriculture and fisheries, along with the provision of fresh water, rely heavily on the wise management of natural and semi-natural ecosystems. However, these

ecosystems are under increasing pressure from among other things, population growth, natural disasters, and economic development needs. Responding to these pressures calls for increased attention on how natural resources can be appropriately managed in ways that reflect underlying cultural values and promote cost-effective, sustainable and balanced resource use and economic development. Environmental accounting can provide useful information for policy makers about the multiple

benefits derived from the application of traditional knowledge to sustainable natural resource management and from well-managed ecosystems.

An Australian Government-funded capacity building programme, to be held at Griffith University on 18 May-03 June 2015, will focus on the critical role of culture and traditional knowledge in sustainable livelihoods for local communities and linkages with ecosystem-based approaches in the Melanesian context. As part of the training, its 17 participants from MSG Departments of Environment, Climate Change, National Planning, Arts and Culture, Agriculture and from the Secretariat, will develop a customized Policy Evaluation Tool to appraise policies and write papers on culture and natural resource management that can be translated into official government templates for national policymaking purposes.



The MOU signed, L-R: Director General Mr Peter Forau, Griffith University Vice Chancellor Prof Ian O'Connor, IUCN Pacific Director Mr Taholo Kami, with MSG, Griffith University and IUCN staff

A SNAPSHOT OF MEMBERS' PSD COMMITMENTS

A long-standing and shared aspiration of MSG Members that the Secretariat's PITAP activities will support, relates to sustained and stable economic development through the growth of domestic and foreign-owned private enterprises. A quick review of Members' latest policy statements, taken largely from their 2015 Budgets, will demonstrate a uniformity of purpose in stimulating private sector growth.

Beginning with PNG, the Government pledges to keep

"working to create an improved climate for growth of the private sector", while the Vanuatu Government will "continue to implement sound policies that encourage private sector led growth".

The Government of Fiji is committed to "creating an environment that allows the private sector to succeed", whereas the newly elected Solomon Islands Government has prioritized policy and regulatory reforms in recognition of the "potential to unleash the economic develop-

ment potential of our country".

These national undertakings are in sync with the recognition of the MSG EPG that a conducive climate for increased investment and trade is a fundamental prerequisite for achieving sustained economic growth in the region. In this regard and following the commitments of Trade Ministers under the Port Moresby Declaration, an inclusive MSG-wide and country-specific PSD Strategy is to be formulated this year through EU funding via PITAP.

....a conducive climate for increased investment and trade is a fundamental prerequisite for achieving sustained economic growth in the region

IPAS SUPPORT THE PRIVATE SECTOR

A major partner of Governments in the PSD process are IPAs which promote and facilitate investment, and also play a part in export promotion. Investment Fiji, PNG Investment Promotion Authority and the Vanuatu In-

vestment Promotion Authority are autonomous bodies, whereas the Foreign Investment Division of the Ministry of Commerce, Industry, Labour and Immigration carries out the functions of an IPA in Solomon Is-

lands. For more on the services of these IPAs, please visit:

www.investmentfiji.org.fj

www.ipa.gov.pg

www.investvanuatu.org

www.commerce.gov.sb

A major partner of Governments in the PSD process are IPAs

POLICE COOPERATION SECONDMENTS COMPLETED

The secondments of Police Liaison Officer, Chief Superintendent (CS) Hodges Ette from the Royal PNG Constabulary and Peacekeeping Operations Officer, Senior Superintendent (SSP) Erami Raibe from the Fiji Police Force ended on 16 November and 15 December 2014, respectively. Their engagements fulfilled commitments made at the MSG Police Commissioners Conferences on regional police cooperation issues.

Among the accomplishments of CS Ette were the consolidation of a submission to the next Commissioners Conference on the MSG Police Women Network

concept and research on cooperation regarding extradition. CS Ette also drafted an MOU between PNG and Fiji on police cooperation, and coordinated preparations for the 2015 MSG Police Sports and Cultural event.

The contributions of SSP Raibe included the formulation of a work plan, policy guidelines and Standard Operation Procedures for the MSG Formed Police Unit, in accordance with the UN Peacekeeping Operations guidelines. He also attended the UN Thematic Meeting on Police Command that was held in Pretoria, South Africa, and conducted national consultations in Fiji,

Solomon Islands and Vanuatu on key outcomes from the 2014 Commissioners Conference. The meeting in Pretoria developed a new Doctrine for UN Police Peacekeeping Operations and also provided opportunities for collaboration with the UN Standing Police Capacity and Mobile Training Teams which would be beneficial for the development of Training Curriculum for the MSG Regional Police Academy and also support the MSG Formed Police Unit. The Secretariat acknowledges the contributions of both CS Ette and SSP Raibe, and wishes them every success with their future endeavours.



Joining CS Ette (left) at his farewell was SSP Raibe

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MELANESIA, ONE PEOPLE, ONE SOLWORA,
ONE REGION, WORKING TOGETHER TO
ACHIEVE PROSPERITY FOR ALL

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MELANESIAN SPEARHEAD GROUP



A BRIEF HISTORY OF MSG

The Melanesian Spearhead Group came into being at an informal meeting of the Heads of the Governments of PNG, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and a senior representative of the FLNKS in Goroka, PNG on 17 July 1986.

The Leaders agreed on the importance of having common positions and solidarity in spear-heading regional issues of common interest, including the FLNKS cause for political independence in New Caledonia. Two years later on 14 March 1988 in Port Vila, Vanuatu, the Prime Minister of PNG, Hon Paias Wingti; Prime Minister of Vanuatu, Hon. Walter Lini; and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Solomon Islands, Hon. Ezekiel Alembua signed the six-point "Agreed Principles of Cooperation Among the Independent States in Melanesia".

The FLNKS joined in 1989, followed by Fiji in 1996. The MSG has developed into a regional bloc with its own Trade Agreement (Revised in 2005 and currently reviewed), Agreement Establishing the MSG (signed on 23 March 2007) and having its own headquarters located in Port Vila which was officially opened during the 17th Leaders Summit on 30 May 2008.

MSG SECRETARIAT



GOVERNING BODY CLEARS BUDGET

High-level delegations comprising Foreign Ministers and their Senior Officials converged into Port Vila, Vanuatu on 21-23 January for the 2015 MSG Governing Body Budget Meeting.

The engagement was convened primarily to discuss the Budget and Work Programme of the Secretariat for the year 2015.

The Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) held on 21-22 January was followed by the Foreign Ministers Meeting on 23 January to consider the report of the SOM. The agendas included an update on the implementation of PITAP in 2014 and its planned activities for 2015.

The Foreign Ministers endorsed the 2015 MSG Secretariat Work Programme and Budget, and

also approved the launching of Melanesian Solutions as the business arm of the Secretariat. The Foreign Minister for Vanuatu, Hon. Sato Kilman, was chief guest at the launching of Melanesian Solutions.

In addition, the Ministers signed a communiqué in support of the FLNKS Political Bureau's efforts to resolve the political impasse in New Caledonia through dialogue and consensus.

A significant aspect of the gathering was the attendance of the Foreign Minister for Fiji, Hon. Ratu Inoke Kubuabola and his counterpart from Solomon Islands, Hon. Milner Tozaka, whose appointments followed their respective countries' historical general elections.



MSG Foreign Ministers with the Secretariat's Executives



Hon Kilman, launching Melanesian Solutions