



MELANESIAN TOK

ISSUE 3/2015 (MAY-JUNE)



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, including those supported through the EU-funded Pacific Integration Technical Assistance Project (PITAP) for improved intra-MSG trade and investment performance.

MSG LEADERS MEET IN HONIARA

The 20th MSG Leaders Summit held in Honiara, Solomon Islands on 25-26 June, was chaired by Hon. Manasseh Sogavare, Prime Minister of Solomon Islands, and was attended by Mr Victor Tutugoro, Spokesperson of FLNKS, Hon. Voreqe Bainimarama, Prime Minister of Fiji; Hon. Peter O'Neill, Prime Minister of PNG; and Mr Johnson Naviti, Director General (DG), Office of the Prime Minister, who represented the Prime Minister of Vanuatu. The Summit was centered on the theme, *Let's build a strong Melanesia in the Pacific where peace, progress and prosperity is ensured and sustained for all.*

While public attention focused on the approval for the admission of the United Liberation Movement for West Papua as an Observer member, and of Indonesia as an Associate member representing the five Melanesian Provinces in their country, Leaders also made key decisions on the work programme of the Secretariat as



Signing off the Leaders' Communiqué, seated L-R: Mr Tutugoro, FLNKS Spokesperson, PM Bainimarama of Fiji, MSG Chair and PM Sogavare of Solomon Islands, PM O'Neill of PNG and DG Naviti of Vanuatu

submitted to them through the Foreign Ministers Meeting. DG Mr Peter Forau thus described the Summit as "one of the most productive and certainly historical." Leaders also adopted 11 Instruments of Cooperation as policy frameworks to guide Members and the Secretariat in pursuit of their agreed goals (see Page 2).

Details of the decisions made at the Summit are contained in the 20th MSG Leaders Summit Communiqué which is available on the Secretariat's website, www.msgsec.info.

The next MSG Leaders Summit will be hosted by PNG during the year 2017.

What's Inside

Leaders Sign Instruments of Cooperation	2
Leaders Direct Conclusion of Trade Negotiations	2
Extensive PSD Consultations Concluded	3
Active Engagements with EU	4
MSG Signs MOU with PIPSO	4
COLEACP Helps Agrifood Producers	4
Wonder Woman: From Crisis to Copra, to Buses and Hotels	5
Women in Business Associations	5
Police Commissioners Conclude Conference	6
Cultural and Natural Resource Fellowships Completed	6
Vanuatu Agriculture Policy Launched	6
Contributing to Youth Empowerment	7
VIPA Appoints New CEO	7
Secretariat Staff Movements	7
Noumea to Host Investment Roadshow and Trade Fair	8
Traditional Knowledge Regulatory Reforms Supported	8
Upcoming Activities	8

COMMON ABBREVIATIONS

- | | |
|--|--|
| ACP - African, Caribbean and the Pacific | CEO - Chief Executive Officer |
| CTA - Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation | DG - Director General |
| EDF - European Development Fund | EU - European Union |
| FLNKS - Front de Libération the Nationale Kanak et Socialiste | |
| FSM - Federated States of Micronesia | HIPA+IOM - Heads of IIPA & Industry Officials Meeting |
| IPA - Investment Promotion Agency | MOU - Memorandum of Understanding |
| MSGTA3 - Melanesian Spearhead Group Trade Agreement 3 | |
| PIFS - Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat | PIPISO - Pacific Islands Private Sector Organisation |
| PITAP - Pacific Integration and Technical Assistance Project | PNG - Papua New Guinea |
| PSD - Private Sector Development | RMI - Republic of Marshall Islands |
| SOM - Senior Officials Meeting | SPC - Secretariat of the Pacific Community |
| SPEITT - Strengthening Pacific Economic Integration Through Trade | |
| TEOM - Trade and Economic Officials Meeting | TWGN - Technical Working Group Negotiations |
| USP - University of the South Pacific | |

LEADERS SIGN INSTRUMENTS OF COOPERATION

MSG Leaders signed the following Instruments of Cooperation at their Summit in Honiara on 26 June to promote, coordinate and strengthen intra-MSG relations, in support of Members' shared goals of economic growth, sustainable development, good governance, peace and security:

1. **Agreement Establishing MSG (Revised 2015)** is the main legal document governing relations between members and the affairs of the MSG Secretariat.

2. **Declaration on the MSG 2038 Prosperity for All Plan** is the policy framework to achieve MSG's Vision and Mission of enhanced sub-regionalism and integration, while its Implementation Framework serves as the operational guideline for the Plan's Objective and Strategies and to guide future MSG resource allocation and programming.

3. **Agreement Establishing the Regional Police Academy** aims to strengthen police cooperation and encourage specialized training for police forces from Member Countries to be able to address law and order and security threats in the region.

4. **Framework Agreement for the MSG Formed Police Unit** provides a framework for strengthening security and police cooperation between Members to address law and order and security threats.

5. **MOU on the Humanitarian and Emergency Coordination Centre** focuses on natural disasters, man-made disasters like oil spills, civil aviation or maritime accidents and complex emergencies.

6. **Declaration on Transshipment of Nuclear Wastes and Trans-boundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes (Revised 1995 Lakatoro Declaration)** encourages dialogue on nuclear transshipment that usually passes through MSG Exclusive Economic Zones and the risk of spillage due to likely accident or natural disaster in the region.

7. **MOU on Technical Cooperation in Coastal Fishery and Aquaculture Development between Members of the MSG** facilitates a collaborative approach to build Members' capabilities and resources in a coordinated and efficient way in the areas of sustainable coastal fisheries and aquaculture development.

8. **MSG Roadmap for Inshore Fisheries Management and Sustainable Development** provides a strategic direction on the way forward that is relevant to Members' inshore fisheries sectors, policies and legislation and provides a detailed structure for the implementation within the inshore fisheries sector.

9. **Declaration on Combating Domestic and Family Violence** recognises the importance of a regional approach to combating domestic and family violence at the national and regional level, such as in advancing the role of MSG in complementing the work of relevant international and regional partners.

10. **MOU on Sports Cooperation** promotes and develops cooperation in sports exchange programs, including coaches and technical officials, and direct financial support for the preparation of major regional sports events.

11. **Revival of the Melanesian Soccer Cup** which was last held in 2000 in Suva, Fiji will now be brought back to the mainstream of MSG events, with participation limited to MSG citizens given the increasing number of foreigners playing in the League competitions in Member countries.

The above Instruments of Cooperation are notably consistent with the overarching theme of the 20th MSG Leaders Summit, that is, "Let's build a strong Melanesia in the Pacific where peace, progress and prosperity is ensured and sustained for all". More details on these Instruments are accessible from www.msgsec.info.

LEADERS DIRECT CONCLUSION OF TRADE NEGOTIATIONS

This year, 2015, will be a monumental one for the Trade Negotiations process that Members have been engaged in, since the revised MSG Trade Agreement (MSGTA3) is to be signed by November. It follows the decision of Leaders at their recent Summit in Honiara where they "Directed trade officials to continue to support activities towards concluding negotiations on the MSGTA3 legal text by October, ahead of the planned TMM tentatively scheduled for November 2015". Their decision harmonises with the Trade Ministerial mandate under the Port Moresby Declaration for "Concluding MSGTA3 negotiations on Goods and Services by 2015" and will, most importantly help towards the achievement of a Melanesian Free Trade Area in line with the first commitment under the Declaration, namely "Achieving a Free Trade Area by 2017".

The Secretariat has been actively engaged in providing Members with advisory support upon their request and, through the Technical Working Group Negotiations (TWGN) on both Goods and Services such as were convened in Port Vila, Vanuatu last April. In addition and following the Trade Officials' decision at their April meeting, the Secretariat's Trade Economist/Legal (TEL), Mr Petros Shayanowako, joined the PSD Mission Team during their in-country consultations (see Page 3) to discuss with national stakeholders including Government officials, private sector representatives and non-state actors, developments pertaining to the MSGTA3, with particular focus on the revision of the Rules of Origin under the MSGTA3. Another round of TWGNs by Trade Officials will be held in Nadi, Fiji during the week of 24 August. For any further clarification, Petros can be reached via email, p.shayanowako@msg.int.



Petros (left) in PNG, with Lae Chamber members



At the Solomon Islands Customs roundtable

EXTENSIVE PSD CONSULTATIONS COMPLETED

Forty-eight days were spent by the PSD Mission Team during their unprecedented series of in-country consultations, which involved six international and 20 domestic flights, four boat rides, and 11 distant trips by road. This took the Team to four capitals, 15 other rural and urban centres, not to mention the cancellation of an inter-island boat trip due to a cyclone warning! In total, 130 meetings were convened, involving 365 stakeholders from the public and private sectors, non-state actors including traditional resource owners plus the media.

The Mission Team was led by Private Sector Development Adviser (PSDA) Mr Henry Sanday and included Consultant Mr Jesoni Vitusagavulu (Vitu) and TEL Mr Petros Shayanowako. They departed from Port Vila on 28 April and finally returned to base on 14 June. Petros' task focused on the Rules of Origin requirements of the MSGTA3, as recommended by Trade Officials last April. Coincidentally, implementing the sixth of 11 commitments under the Port Moresby Declaration (of "mapping out a clear private sector development strategy by 2015") started in Port Moresby itself, followed by trips to Kokopo (then by road to Rabaul) in PNG's maritime Province of East New Britain, then to Lae in Morobe Province and finally, to Mt Hagen in Western Highlands Province.

Outside Honiara in Solomon Islands, the travel to Western Province included boat trips between the Airport and Town in Gizo, and by road between the township of Munda and the fishing port of Noro. The scheduled boat trip from Honiara to Auki in Malaita Province was cancelled due to a cyclone alert in the seas off Southern Malaita.

In Fiji, the Team flew from Suva to Labasa on Vanua Levu before travelling by road to Savusavu via Seaqaqa and Wailevu, and returned to the capital from Savusavu by air. Travel in the Western Division of the main island of Viti Levu, spanning from Nadi to Lautoka, Ba and Tavua, was completed by road.

In Vanuatu, the flight from Port Vila to Luganville on Santo was followed by a 60km evening northward drive to Port Olry and on the following day, the Team took a 40-minute boat ride to Aore Island. Trips to Lenakel, Isangel and the coffee farms on Tanna were taken by road.

Consultations were held with National and Local Government authorities including Provincial and Municipal Councils, the private sector comprising domestic and foreign investors, central and commercial banks and other financial institutions, both formal and informal enterprises from various sectors, cooperatives, women and youth-owned enterprises, peak industry bodies, indigenous and other business associations, churches as well as development partners, regional and international organisations, academia and research institutes. Two special groups that expressed profound appreciation for their inclusion in the consultations were people with disabilities through their respective national and regional bodies, and the national Corrections Services which supervise inmates' rehabilitation. Online submissions were also received from various parties.

Participants of the consultations have been kept up-to-date by the Secretariat with regards to progress on the work being done by Vitu, who has been preparing the Draft MSG PSD Strategy for presentation to the 3rd Heads of Investment Promotion Agencies and Industry Officials Meeting HIPA+IOM) to be held in



Vitu (left) and Henry, on their boat transfer from the Airport to Town in Gizo, Solomon Islands

Nadi, Fiji on 27 August. Further updates by the Secretariat on the Strategy's development will subsequently be made to the Trade and Economic Officials Meeting (TEOM) on 28 August and the Trade Ministerial Meeting (TMM) on 31 August also in Nadi. Further reviews will take place in the lead-up to the Strategy's final tabling with the Trade Ministers in November.

DG Peter Forau said, "This is a major piece of work for us following Ministerial commitments under the Port Moresby Declaration and the Secretariat wishes to ensure that the final Strategy is a quality document which is realistic in addressing Members' diverse needs." He noted that the Strategy will add value to Members' PSD policy commitments as contained in their respective National Development Strategies, as well as to the Secretariat's resource mobilization plans. "After all, our Leaders at their recent Summit in Honiara, encouraged the Secretariat to work closely with relevant partners in the region on the implementation of the PSD Strategy," DG Forau added. For further information, Henry can be contacted via email, h.sanday@msg.int.



With the Chairperson of the PNG Assembly of Disabled Persons, Ms Ipul Powaseu (centre) and Ms Heather Vanua



Participants at the public consultations held in the Savusavu Town Council Chambers on Vanua Levu, Fiji



With Ms Sandrine Wallez, Founder of Port Vila-based Alternative Commodities Trade in Vanuatu, ACTIV, that facilitates fair trade of local products

ACTIVE ENGAGEMENTS WITH EU



At the MSG booth, L-R: Eleni, EU Ambassador Andrew Jacobs and Monica

The Secretariat's recent engagements with the EU included the participation of Capacity Development Adviser, Ms Eleni Tevi and Information Technology & Website Officer, Ms Monica Abau-Sapulai, at the Europe Day celebrations on 09 May in Suva, Fiji. The distribution of publications and audio visual presentations at the MSG booth raised the visibility of MSG as an organisation and of its activities. Next were the 2015 Monitoring and Evaluation of the Strengthening Pacific Economic Integration Through Trade (SPEITT) meeting on 13 May and the 11th EDF Programming meeting on 14 May. Both were attended by Eleni and Program Manager, Trade & Investment (PMTI), Mr John Licht. The 11th EDF will focus on *Regional Economic Integration; Sustainable*

Management of Natural Resources and Governance, Human Rights and Gender. For the use of 11th EDF resources, emphasis was placed on the need for implementing partners to progress from trade negotiations to actual implementation, and also to ensure inclusiveness so that resources will address the specific interests of minority groups including women and people with special needs. To strengthen capacity on 11th EDF Procurement Procedures and Implementation Requirements, an intensive training similar to previous EDF trainings offered by the EU will be held in Suva, Fiji on 03-13 August. Eleni and Senior Accountant, John Palmer, will represent the Secretariat at that training, which is being jointly organised by PIFS and the EU. For more on these activities, Eleni can be emailed, e.tevi@msg.int.

MSG SIGNS MOU WITH PIPSO



Formalising the MSG-PIPISO MOU
L-R: John, Andie, Jerome and Mereia

The MOU signed between MSG and PIPSO on 13 May in Suva is a key milestone for the two institutions given their commitment to regional economic integration through PSD. Both are implementing partners of the EU-funded, PIFS-administered SPEITT programme, a component of which is PITAP. The MOU, which DG Peter Forau signed with PIPSO CEO, Mrs Mereia Volavola, was exchanged during the annual SPEITT Steering Committee meeting. PIFS Deputy SG, Ms Andie Fong Toy, and EU Head of Economic & Social Sectors for the Pacific, Mr Jerome Pons, commended both MSG and PIPSO for their initiative to foster cooperation that addresses common priorities, and to also explore new opportu-

nities for further collaboration, including the pooling of resources for joint initiatives. According to DG Forau, "The MOU will further unleash the potential of our two organisations to better serve our Members as we advance into a new Trade Agreement post-2015." Mrs Volavola acknowledged the importance of joint approaches to enhancing private sector influence on regional and national trade, investment and economic policy issues. "The MOU formalizes the partnership which PIPSO and the MSG Secretariat have developed over the last three years," she noted. Further details on the MOU are available from John via email, j.licht@msg.int.

A request from the Vanuatu Embassy in Brussels led COLEACP (Europe-Africa-Caribbean-Pacific Liaison Committee), which helps develop sustainable agricultural value chains, to organise the "Supporting the Agrifood Sectors in Vanuatu and More Broadly in the Pacific Region" meeting in Port Vila on 23-25 June. Vanuatu's Ambassador to the EU, H.E. Mr Roy Mickey Joy commended COLEACP for responding just three months after Cyclone Pam devastated the country. Public and private sector representatives from Cook Islands, FSM, Fiji, Kiribati, Niue, PNG, RMI, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu were in attendance.

COLEACP HELPS AGRIFOOD PRODUCERS

Among the visiting speakers was Dr Len Monica Ishmael, Ambassador for the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States based in Brussels. Other institutions present included CTA and UNCTAD as well as FFA, MSG, PIFS and PIPSO. The key outcome of the meeting was the matching of Pacific-specific strategies with COLEACP methodologies for use from 2015 onwards. The Secretariat's intervention focused on the significance of the informal economy, trading between adjacent sovereign states and the PSD Strategy that is being developed. Queries on this engagement can be emailed to PSDA Henry Sanday, h.sanday@msg.int.



Meeting participants, with Ambassador Joy, seated at the centre

WONDER WOMAN: FROM CRISIS TO COPRA, TO BUSES AND HOTELS

Melanesian Tok will be profiling selected individuals who met with the PSD Mission Team, as parts of their inspirational experiences may be replicable elsewhere.

We begin with Ms Ellis Waragat, Managing Director of Kokopo Lodge & Kokopo Tours Ltd based in PNG's island Province of East New Britain. Ellis and her husband lost their jobs during the Bougainville crisis in 1989. They returned home in Kokopo and did odd work including cutting and selling copra, and, as Ellis emphasised, "we saved and saved and saved." Using personal savings, Ellis bought her first 15-seater mini-bus in 1991 to provide public and tourist transportation services. She has since expanded her fleet to seven 15-30 seater mini-buses plus a crane that does contractual work for PNG Power Ltd. Her tours take clients to World War II relics, the famous Tavorur Volcano that erupted in 1994 and other picturesque settings of Kokopo, Rabaul and other parts of the island.

Due to tourist demand, Ellis ventured into an accommodation facility in her village that was built using timber resources from their ancestral lands. Reflecting on her incredibly trying experiences, Ellis revealed "In July 2006, 13 Australian

Church visitors stayed with us for one week and they ate local food. That started my hotel business, informal and without an official opening."

Unsurprisingly, no commercial bank dared to meet Ellis' financial needs due to her lack of collaterals. Her cries for help to enable the purchase of basic white goods and bedding materials for her village-based hotel were eventually heard by a general finance company, which took the risk and lent K30,000 in response to her loan application of K15,000. She described that loan approval as "It was like I was in Heaven!" The rest is now history as business continues to grow. She has thus become an established formal sector player, a training service provider and mentor to other women and young girls, a speaker at conferences, and an avid contributor to community, provincial and national development. As for her current project, she is concentrating on designing a two-storey 50-room hotel to be constructed in downtown Kokopo! Ellis can be contacted via email, koptours@telinet.com.pg, or through her company websites, www.kokopotours.net and www.kokopolodge.com.



Elated Ellis, with three of her 10 staff



Firmly in control, Ellis, in one of her 15-seater mini-buses

WOMEN IN BUSINESS ASSOCIATIONS

As noted above from Ms Ellis Waragat's story, the development of women entrepreneurs has tremendous potential to empower women and to transform communities and economies. The Secretariat has thus been gathering information on Members' women-focused business groups. Together with their Presidents or Coordinators, they are: **PNG** - PNG Women in Business Foundation (Mrs Janet Sape) and, PNG Women's Chamber of Commerce & Industry (Ms Avia Koisen) which is affiliated to the PNG Chamber of Commerce & Industry;

Solomon Islands - Solomon Islands Women in Business Association (Ms Nina Tuhaika); **Fiji**: Women in Business (Dr Nur Bano Ali), and Women Entrepreneurs & Business Council (Mrs Eseta Nadakuitavuki) which is affiliated to the Fiji Commerce & Employers Federation; and **Vanuatu**: Vanuatu Association for Women in Sustainable Business Development (Mrs Anna Stevens). Remarkably, two national Chambers are headed by women: Ms Rose Abana, CEO, Solomon Islands Chamber of Commerce & Indus-

try and Ms Astrid Boulekone, General Manager, Vanuatu Chamber of Commerce & Industry. While Chambers, Employers Federations and Business Councils advocate women's involvement in business, other entities such as National Councils of Women and Church-affiliated bodies are also actively engaged in income generating projects for women. PSDA Henry Sanday, h.sanday@msg.int, has further information on them.



Businesswomen in Lae, PNG who met with the MSG PSD Mission Team, L-R: Mrs Nellie McLay, Mrs Jane Kenni, Mrs Sheila Harou, Mrs Sarah Todd and Mrs Philomena Elijah

POLICE COMMISSIONERS CONCLUDE CONFERENCE

MSG Police Commissioners met in Honiara, Solomon Islands on 14 May for their 5th Conference, which was officially opened by Hon. Manasseh Sogavare, Prime Minister of Solomon Islands. The Conference was co-chaired by Royal Solomon Islands Police Force (RSIPF) Commissioner, Mr Frank Prendergast and Mr. Philippe Ajapuhnya, representative of FLNKS. In attendance were Commissioner Bernardus J.J Groenewald of the Fiji Police Force, Assistant Commissioner Jim Wan of the Royal PNG Constabulary, Assistant Commissioner Daniel Rakau of the Vanuatu Police Force, and Deputy Commissioner Juanita Matanga of RSIPF. The meeting was also attended by Members' senior Police

Officers and Secretariat officials led by DG Mr Peter Forau. Issues of national, sub-regional and regional significance discussed by the Police Commissioners related to MSG participation in UN Peacekeeping, Cyber Crime, Domestic Violence, Emergency Management and Disaster Management. The experiences shared by particularly Vanuatu on their response to Cyclone Pam and lessons learnt from them enlightened Members given the Melanesian sub-region's increasing vulnerability to natural disasters. Key decisions from the Conference were presented to MSG Leaders, who subsequently signed the Agreement Establishing the Regional Police Academy, the Framework Agreement for the



Conference participants, together with their Heads of Delegations, seated L-R: AC Rakau, CP Groenewald, CP Prendergast, PM Sogavare, Mr Ajapuhnya, AC Wan and DG Forau

MSG Formed Police Unit, and the Declaration on Combatting Domestic and Family Violence, as reported on Page 2 of this Newsletter. For further clarification, the Program Manager, Governance & Sustainable Development (PMGSD), Mr Stanley Wapot can be reached via email, sj.wapot@msg.int.

CULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCE FELLOWSHIPS COMPLETED

The MSG-Griffith University Australian Award Fellowship Program on *Valuing Culture and Nature for Sustainable Natural Resource Management* (NRM) on 17 May–04 June, was attended by 16 officials from the Departments of Planning and Finance, Environment, Lands, Agriculture, Climate Change, and Culture of Vanuatu, Fiji and Solomon Islands. The first two weeks were spent on NRM policy theory and case studies mostly at Griffith University, Gold Coast and at the Crawford School of Public Policy, ANU, Canberra. Field

visits followed, to the Australian Museum in Sydney that has the world's largest collection of Pacific and especially Melanesian artifacts, to the Bina Burra section of Lamington National Park, Gold Coast and then to Dimbulah Aboriginal country, Northern Territory. Besides networking and sharing of experiences, participants were exposed to Sustainable NRM policy and practice in the context of Australia. Also covered were NRM approaches based on culture and traditional knowledge,

blended with science to achieve multiple development goals. A customized Policy Evaluation Tool was also developed to assess policies and review papers on culture and NRM for translation into official templates for national policy interventions. More details on the Fellowship are available from PMGSD Stanley Wapot by email, sj.wapot@msg.int.



Stanley (standing, second from left) with participants at the Australian Museum, Sydney

VANUATU AGRICULTURE POLICY LAUNCHED

The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Trade, Hon. Moana Carcasses Kalosil, launched the Vanuatu Agriculture Sector Policy 2015-2030 in Port Vila on 26 June. The development of the Policy, supported by various partners including the EU through the Pacific Policy Program managed by SPC, involved nation-wide consultations led by the Department of Agriculture & Rural Development. Members of Parliament including the former Minister for Agriculture, Hon. David Tosul, and the former Minister for Lands, Hon. Ralph Regenvanu, were in attendance, together with

Government officials and representatives of the private sector and of development partners. Farmers, including women and youth, were strongly represented and were duly recognised for their contributions to the country's national agricultural output. Upon the invitation of DG Agriculture Howard Aru, PSDA Henry Sanday accompanied Dr Chris Addison, Senior Programme Coordinator, Knowledge Management from the Netherlands-based Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA) to the launch. The Secretariat and CTA are exploring opportunities for collaboration



Agriculture unites, L-R: Deputy PM Kalosil, Henry, Chris and Opposition MP, Hon. Regenvanu

in support of agricultural development in MSG Member countries. The new Agriculture Sector Policy is downloadable from www.malffb.gov.vu.

CONTRIBUTING TO YOUTH EMPOWERMENT



Youth visitors from New Caledonia

In support of youth development, the Secretariat hosted 12 young volunteers from New Caledonia who are co-sponsored by *France Volontaire*, the three Provincial Governments of New Caledonia and the French Government. Led by Mr Gael Audras, they are to serve as Teaching Assistants at French schools, Cultural Attachés at cultural centres and also to help in cooperation building activities on Efate, Vanuatu. Six other volunteers are already on Santo and Tanna then, while nine more are in Fiji. Ranging

from six months to three years, the attachments are to help develop youths through first-hand cross-cultural experiences and involvement in addressing local capacity needs.

The Secretariat also assisted the Sydney-based Lowy Institute for International Policy, with support from the Pacific Media Assistance Scheme and ANZ Bank, in convening the *Melanesia New Voices: Investing in the Next Generation* Dialogue in Port Vila on 23 June. The Secretariat

helped with nominations that brought some of the 25 participating young and emerging leaders (five each from Fiji, New Caledonia, PNG, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu) to discuss their challenges and hopes for the region, and to explore opportunities for cooperation. A key recommendation they made was for MSG Leaders to provide the youth with more space for contributing to political and economic decision-making. More details are on www.lowyinstitute.org.



Dr Thomas

Dr Andrina KL Thomas joined the Vanuatu Investment Promotion Authority (VIPA) as its CEO on 06 May. She was previously Country Manager Vanuatu for Live & Learn Environmental Education where she managed 25 staff. She was also In-Country Coordinator for the Global Entrepreneurship Management entrepreneurial research undertaken with the Vanuatu Na-

VIPA APPOINTS NEW CEO

tional Statistics Office in 2009-10 and Manager Contributor Services, Vanuatu National Provident Fund from 2004-08. Andrina completed a PhD from Waikato University in 2013, with her thesis entitled *Empowering Ni-Vanuatu Women: Amplifying Wantok Authority and Fair Market Access*.

She also has an MBA and a BA from USP in Fiji, and aims to capacity-build her team to increase their skills, knowledge, capacity and decision-making opportunities. The Secretariat's plan to foster relations between MSG IPAs will be helpful in this regard. Andrina's email address is athomas@vipa.org.vu.

SECRETARIAT STAFF MOVEMENTS



Rose

The Secretariat bid farewell to two staff members and welcomed a new member. Ms Rose Wete of FLNKS ended her contract with the Secretariat after serving three years firstly as International Relations Officer within the then Political Affairs Division, working on security issues and partnerships through MOUs with key institutions. She then became Corporate Development Officer with the Operations Division, focusing on internal policy formulation and outreach programmes, before leaving for the Australian Consulate-General in Noumea where she works as Consular Officer.

The second departing staff member, Mr Jamie Tanguay, served the Secretariat for two years as Project Coordinator for Alternative Indicators for Well Being in Melanesia, a project that seeks the incorporation of Melanesian val-

ues in regional decision making processes. The Government of Vanuatu, as project initiator in 2010, has requested that the project be re-located back to the Vanuatu National Statistics Office in order to provide on-site technical assistance in baseline well-being collection and analysis. Jamie continues to provide support and oversight in the piloting of the wellbeing indicators in PNG, Fiji, Solomon Islands and New Caledonia as endorsed by MSG Leaders in 2013.

Mr John Palmer of Solomon Islands joined the Secretariat on 01 June as Senior Accountant from the SPC North Pacific Regional Office in Pohnpei, FSM. John has served extensively in the areas of accounting, financial management, corporate reforms and project management with Honiara City Council under a Commonwealth Local Government Forum Institutional

Strengthening project), the Foundation of the Peoples of the South Pacific International as well as with USP at its Port Vila Emalus and Suva Laucala Campuses. He also served his Government through the Ministry of Finance, Development Bank of Solomon Islands and Solomon Islands Ports Authority. John spent time as well in Nauru under an AusAID-funded project for the country's State-Owned Enterprises. His email contact is j.palmer@msg.int.



Jamie



John

**THE SECRETARIAT
MELANESIAN SPEARHEAD GROUP (MSG)**



**SECRETARIAT
GROUPE DE FER DE LANCE MÉLANÉSIEN (GFLM)**

PMB 9105
Independence Garden
Port Vila
REPUBLIC OF VANUATU

SPR 9105
Jardin de l'Indépendance
Port Vila
RÉPUBLIQUE DE VANUATU

Tel: +678 27791
Fax: +678 27691

Email: MSG.Secretariat@msg.int
Website: www.msgsec.info

Tel: +678 27791
Fax: +678 27691

Email: MSG.Secretariat@msg.int
Website: www.msgsec.info

FOLLOW US ON THE WEB;

[HTTP://WWW.MSGSEC.INFO/](http://www.msgsec.info/)

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

Contact *Melanesian Tok* by email
melanesian.tok@msg.int

NOUMEA TO HOST INVESTMENT ROADSHOW AND TRADE FAIR

"Fostering Investment Roadshows as a means to enhancing business to business linkages" is a commitment under the Port Moresby Declaration that the Secretariat is pursuing in order to improve intra-MSG trade and investment flows. Preparations are thus underway for holding the 3rd MSG Investment Roadshow and Trade Fair in Noumea, New Caledonia later this year. The Investment Roadshow is being scheduled for 18 November, while the Trade Fair is to follow the Roadshow on 19-20 November.

The Secretariat is working closely with the authorities in Noumea for the organisation of the Investment Roadshow and Trade Fair. Major items on their agenda include the programmes for both events, the level of participation, the number of booths and their allocations to Member countries, costing as well as opportunities for funding support.

Given the dynamics of the business environment at all levels, the Roadshow is to provide opportunities to the private sector as well as to senior Government officials and representatives of key institutions and development partners, to engage in meaningful dialogue on strategies for improving the overall climate for doing business in Member countries. Networking and matchmaking for trade and investment purposes will naturally be part of the programme, which will be further supplemented by opportunities that companies and institutions will have when exhibiting their goods and services at the Trade Fair.

The experiences shared by participants of the 2nd Roadshow and Trade Fair held in Port Moresby, PNG during November 2014 as well as the suggestions they have made to improve the events, have been useful to the Secretariat for its planning process. Additional feedback is therefore being encouraged, especially from other past participants who may have yet to submit their views and recommendations.

Individuals and companies interested in attending the upcoming Roadshow and Trade Fair should regularly check updates online, www.msgsec.info, or in forthcoming *Melanesian Tok* newsletters. Alternatively, enquiries can be made directly to PSDA Henry Sanday via email, h.sanday@msg.int.

TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE REGULATORY REFORMS SUPPORTED

The implementation of the 2011 MSG Treaty on Traditional Knowledge and Expressions of Culture, which governs the regulation of access to traditional knowledge with equitable benefit sharing, involves a range of national capacity building activities such as the Traditional Knowledge Bill Workshop to be held in Honiara, Solomon Islands

on 03-07 August. The workshop will allow stakeholders from the public and private sectors and community groups including indigenous resource owners, to scrutinize the Solomon Islands Traditional Knowledge Bill that is due for tabling in Parliament later this year. This Bill is crucial to safeguarding cultural heritage and values from exploitation

and duplication, as well as to ensuring tangible and maximum benefits are acquired by rightful owners from the use of their traditional knowledge and culture. The Secretariat will be represented by Manager Legal Services, Mr Ilan Kiloie, who facilitated a similar workshop in Fiji last year. For more details, please contact Ilan by email, i.kiloie@msg.int.



Traditional *Bilikiki* dancing in Honiara

EDF Training in Suva, Fiji

- 03-13 August

MSG Chair's Visit to Vanuatu

- 18-21 August

MSG Governing Body Meetings in Port Vila, Vanuatu

- SOM, 26-27 August
- Foreign Ministers Meeting
28 August

MSG Trade Meetings in Nadi, Fiji

- TWGN Goods: 24 August
- TWGN Services: 25-26 August
- HIPA+IOM: 27 August
- TEOM: 28 August
- Trade Ministers Meeting
31 August

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

Study on MSG Export Products

Consultancy proposals are being invited for the above study. Its TOR is available on www.msgsec.info or, contact Ms Tendai Chigwada, Trade Research Analyst via email, t.chigwada@msg.int for a copy, or for any related query.

Deadline for proposals: **17 August 2015**