

Pacific Pride

Issue 5

The Newsletter of the PRIDE Project

January 2006

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The PRIDE Project (Pacific Regional Initiatives for the Delivery of basic Education) is implemented by the Institute of Education at USP and is jointly funded by the European Union and New Zealand AID.

PRIDE serves Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu.



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Editor: Mahendra Singh

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Tel: (679) 323.2783

Fax: (679) 323.1532

e-mail: pride@usp.ac.fj

Web: www.usp.ac.fj/pride

From the Director

At the heart of PRIDE are the fifteen National Project Coordinators. Without them, the Project could not achieve its goals. They are the people who ensure the Project fulfils its mission in each of our fifteen participating countries. We are absolutely dependent upon them. The NPCs are an essential part of the PRIDE team, and we like to think of them as members of the extended PRIDE family.

place for national workshops in Tonga and Solomon Islands.

In all cases the NPCs are senior members of staff in their nation's Ministry of Education. The PRIDE Project has funded office and communications equipment for them, but their Ministries continue to provide salaries.

We were very pleased indeed to welcome our NPCs and their colleagues to Suva for a week-long

presentations by workgroups of model sub-project proposals in the fields of: TVET, ICT, Children with Special Needs, Early Childhood Education and Vernacular Literacy. These model proposals are now available to NPCs on-line and via a CD-ROM to support their preparation of sub-projects.

PRIDE Project staff are deeply grateful to all of the NPCs for their commitment and hard work. Almost



The PRIDE Project "Extended Family": PRIDE National Project Coordinators and support staff gathered in Suva with the PRIDE team in September 2005 for their Workshop

The NPCs are the first point of contact in-country for anyone seeking information or assistance from the Project. They also are our first point of contact when arranging participation in regional workshops, or setting up study visits or training attachments.

Most importantly they have responsibility for preparing and costing sub-project proposals, and for the implementation, monitoring, evaluation, financial management and reporting of sub-projects.

Given that more than half of the PRIDE Project's funding is allocated to sub-projects, and that sub-projects are designed to help countries implement key priority areas of their education plans, the work of the NPCs in developing and managing sub-projects is highly significant.

NPCs also have responsibility for arranging any workshops and consultations that PRIDE funds at national level. Already we have held such events in Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Tokelau and Vanuatu, and plans are in

capacity building workshop from 12 to 16 September last year. It was held in the PRIDE Conference Room, downstairs in the PRIDE building at USP. NPCs attended from 14 countries. Additionally, four countries (Marshall Islands, Palau, Tonga and Vanuatu) opted to send a second person, these being Ministry staff who provide support/back-up for the NPC.

The main goal of the workshop was to train NPCs in all aspects of sub-project development and implementation. An interactive approach was used, with extensive use of small workgroups.

Presentations were made to assist the participants: develop a sub-project implementation plan; clarify the most suitable forms of technical assistance and identify appropriate consultants; cost proposals and develop budgets; develop sub-project timeframes and milestones; and monitor and evaluate sub-projects and prepare progress reports

A major outcome was a series of

all of the NPCs have very heavy workloads, but the depth and quality of their support for PRIDE is truly impressive.

Countries participants were: Repeta Puna (Cook Islands); Filipe Jitoko (Fiji); Aier Willyander (Federated States of Micronesia); Matana Anterea (Kiribati); Rais 'Aho and Brenda Maddison (Marshall Islands); Jarden Kephas (Nauru); Loseligi Siakimotu (Niue); Raynold Mechol and Emery Wenty (Palau); Uke Kombra (Papua New Guinea); Doreen Tuala (Samoa); Mylyn Kuve (Solomon Islands); Lili Tuioti (Tokelau); Elsie Fukofuka and Kallolaine Moeaki (Tonga); John Gideon and Antoine Thyna (Vanuatu). We say a big thankyou to each of them.

Thanks also to the staff of the Institute of Education (Seu'ula Johansson-Fua, Raijeli Racule and Sereima Lumelume) and of USP Library (Vilimaina Vakaciwa, Paula Jones, and Liviana Tabalala) ■

Dr. Bob Teasdale, Director of PRIDE

Regional Workshop in Samoa: Teacher Education for New Times

The Project held its fourth regional workshop at the National University of Samoa from 28 November to 2 December. Teacher educators and teacher professional developers came from around the region to reflect on global developments in pedagogy and learning, and to explore implications for the pre- and in-service training of teachers in the Pacific.

A key aim was to reconceptualise pedagogy and learning for schools and teacher education institutions, especially from the perspective of



Teremoana Hodges, Liuaki Fusitu'a, Ina Hermann and Kalala Unu in celebratory mode on the final evening of the workshop



A taste of the local culture, Professor Bishop at the workshop opening

local cultures, languages and epistemologies. Another aim was to recommend ways of revitalising the delivery of pre- and in-service teacher education in each country.

All fifteen PRIDE countries were represented. Additionally, teacher educators came from the University of the South Pacific, the Fiji Institute of Technology, the National University of Samoa and Divine Word

University in Madang, PNG.

Two eminent international educators were resource people:

- Professor Allan Luke, Dean of the Centre for Research in Pedagogy & Practice, National Institute of Education, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore
- Professor Russell Bishop, Foundation Professor of Maori Education, University of Waikato, New Zealand.

Additionally, a challenging presentation on media and youth culture was given by Professor Carmen Luke from the Queensland University of Technology. Dr Una Nabobo-Baba, from USP, was "critical friend" to the workshop, providing a highly thought-provoking analysis each day of the workshop discussions.

An exciting feature was the use of

a 'think tank' approach. This allowed small workgroups to reflect on the implications of new theories, concepts and ideas and their relevance for Pacific cultures, and to suggest practical ways forward.

Ten groups were formed, each dealing with a different facet of pre- or in-service teacher education. Over half of the workshop was devoted to group work and group presentations. The outcomes of this process were truly remarkable. The workshop certainly achieved its goal of reconceptualising teacher education in the Pacific!

As Dr Puamau said in her review of the workshop: "The depth in coverage and the collective wisdoms and experiences of the groups have been amazing. The best lesson we have learned is that the answers to

our educational problems are not in the West or in Asia. We in the Pacific have always known this in our hearts. The answers lie within us. They are already in our minds and hearts."



Professor Allan Luke

Marlie Rota: The lady at the centre of things

Climb the stairs and walk into the PRIDE office, and the first person you will meet is our Administrative Assistant, Marlie Rota, who occupies a central space right near the entrance. One thing for certain is that you will always be welcomed with a large smile and a warm greeting.

Equally, if you ring PRIDE on our office number (679 321 2783), or email us at pride@usp.ac.fj, Marlie will be your first point of contact. And if you greet her in Fijian, or Kiribati, or even

Hindi, she will be happy to talk with you in your own language.

Marlie joined the Project in February 2005, replacing our first secretary, Titilia Uluiviti. She quickly adapted to life and work with the PRIDE team, fulfilling a wide range of

secretarial and administrative tasks during the course of each day.

Previously Marlie worked with the Regional Maritime Program at SPC in Suva, both as an office assistant, and in establishing and digitising the

busy with her family of four sons and a daughter, ranging in age from one-and-a-half to fourteen. Her husband, Bwea Maio, is often at sea as bosun on a purse seiner, but on his return is sure to bring enough tuna to keep the family fed for several days.

Marlie tells us that she was born and bred in Suva, growing up as part of the local Banaban community. In addition to family links back to Rabi and Banaba, however, her ancestry also is linked to Kiribati, Tahiti and Fiji, giving her a rich and varied Pacific identity.

When asked what she does with her spare time, Marlie smiled rather wistfully. Spare time is something of a luxury! But she does enjoy reading, and she has a special passion for teaching traditional Pacific island dancing.

Program's library. She also worked as publications assistant with the USP Institute of Education, and with Tebbutt Research as an interviewer. She brings a wide variety of talents with her to the PRIDE Project!

On the home front Marlie is kept

Watch this space for details of the textbook that will be published by PRIDE using the outcomes of the workshop!



Priscilla celebrates the final evening of the workshop

The PRIDE team would like to say a huge thankyou to staff of NUS, and especially to Gatoloaifa'aana Tili Afasamaga, Dean of Education, and her team, for their planning and management of the workshop, to the consultants who challenged our thinking so profoundly, and to all of the participants for responding so creatively and enthusiastically. ■

Aiming High: The Fiji Education Summit

The key event in 2005 for the Fiji Ministry of Education was its **National Education Summit**, held in Suva from 30 August to 1 September. Officially opened by the Prime Minister, the Honourable Laisenia Qarase, the Summit was an important step in the development of a new ten-year Strategic Plan.

As emphasised by the Honourable Ro Teimumu Kepa, Minister for Education, the Summit was "... a significant event in that it signals a real attempt by the Ministry of Education to strengthen its partnerships with its major stakeholders in planning future directions for education in Fiji".

Over 200 stakeholders and Ministry staff gathered for two days of presentations and discussions. An opening keynote address was delivered by Professor Colin Power, former Deputy Director General of UNESCO. He asked the question: "What kind of education is needed to create the kind of society you want to become?" and went on to suggest that "... the future direction of edu-



The Honourable Minister for Education Ro Teimumu Vuikaka Kepa

cation in Fiji depends both on the global forces shaping our common future, and on your own vision for the nation".

A second keynote address was given by PRIDE Project Director, Dr Bob Teasdale. Bob spoke of the role of the Project in helping Pacific nations to build their education systems on a strong foundation of local cul-

tures and values. "Pride in one's own local cultural identity is an essential starting point if our children are to grow up as true global citizens", he said.

The PRIDE National Project Coordinator in Fiji, Mr Filipe Jitoko, played a key role in organising the Summit. We congratulate Filipe and his colleagues for planning such a successful event.

At the final session, participants ratified the **Suva Declaration**, a highly important manifesto that sets out seven national goals for education. The first goal emphasises the need for education to adopt a broader social vision with the child at its centre, the vision



Mr Filipe Jitoko, Deputy Secretary and PRIDE's National Project Coordinator for Fiji

reflecting the society's belief in social justice, social inclusion, gender equality and respect for cultural diversity.

The PRIDE Project was pleased to fund the post-Summit national workshop held on 14–16 Nov. at Pacific Harbour for senior Ministry of Education personnel to review Summit outcomes and recommend implementation strategies. ■

And vinaka vakalevu to Fiji

The PRIDE team says a very big thankyou to the Fiji Ministry of Education (MOE) for its assistance in recent months:

Filipe Jitoko and Eci Naisele visited **Nauru** for ten days during November to conduct a needs analysis for development of a TVET curriculum framework. The PRIDE Project is funding a sub-project to support the introduction of a TVET curriculum at Nauru High School, and to provide professional development for staff. The 2 consultants prepared a comprehensive report on future options, together with detailed recommendations for implementing the sub-project with the support of the Fiji MOE.

Arrangements now are being made for three curriculum specialists from Fiji to visit Nauru for three weeks in February/March 2006 with the aim of developing curricula in the areas of:

- Home Economics & Vocational Catering
- Agricultural Science & Enterprise Education
- Technical Drawing and Vocational Carpentry & Joinery

The team also recommended a twinning partnership: Nauru High School and Ratu Navula Secondary School in Nadi. This will allow teachers from Nauru to visit Fiji for training attachments later in 2006.

The Fiji MOE also is working with **Vanuatu Ministry of Education** to support teacher professional development. A key priority in Vanuatu is the extension of basic education from Class 6 to Class 8, and the preparation of teachers to teach the new curriculum. Fiji has

already been down this path with its BEMTUP Project, and runs training workshops to upgrade teachers skills.

Four staff of the Vanuatu Institute for Teacher Education were funded by PRIDE for a study visit to Fiji in October to see how BEMTUP workshops are planned and delivered by staff of the Curriculum Development Unit (CDU), and to be participant observers at two one-week workshops in their areas of expertise.

Two staff from the Fiji CDU, Ms Harish Sarita (the new co-ordinator of BEMTUP) and Mr Penisoni Ledua, made a reciprocal visit to Vanuatu, 9 to 13 January 2006, to assist as "critical friends" and make presentations at two training workshops being conducted by VITE staff. ■

A sad farewell: Jone Keteca

Arrangements for the study visit of VITE staff to Fiji were made with the assistance of Jone Keteca, coordinator of BEMTUP. In 2005, Jone had attended a PRIDE-funded national workshop in Vanuatu (see *Pacific Pride* 3) as a consultant and contributor.

Jone attended a briefing and lunch at PRIDE to welcome the visiting group from Vanuatu on Friday 7 October and, as usual, was full of energy and enthusiasm. Sadly, however, he passed away suddenly at the weekend. The PRIDE team has conveyed its deepest sympathies to Jone's family and colleagues at their sad and untimely loss. Jone was a wonderfully caring and capable person who was making an important contribution to the work of PRIDE. We will certainly miss him.

PRIDE assists Niue with sub-project proposals

PRIDE Education Adviser, Epeli Tokai, made his second visit to Niue in October 2005 at the request of the Director of Education. He was asked to assist the Director and her staff put together sub-project proposals that would meet the PRIDE Project funding criteria, and at the same time build the capacity of staff to write project proposals and formulate project budgets.

Since his last visit in 2004, there have been staff changes due to the resignation of Tiva Toeono as Director. The former Deputy, Mrs Loseligi Siakimotu, is now Director of Education, and also takes on Tiva's previous role as PRIDE National Project Coordinator. Mrs Janet Tasmania, formerly principal of the only primary school in Niue, is now the Deputy Director.

The Department has recently finalised a draft 5-year Strategic Plan for the education sector, developed in partnership with the Dunedin College of Education and funded by NZAID. The plan was developed through wide consultation with stakeholders and the community, including school students. The release of the strategic plan was very timely indeed as it was used by staff during the capacity building workshop to identify priority areas that could be funded by the PRIDE Project.

The workshop was attended by two senior teachers from the primary school, the principal and

the Head of Language Department from Niue High School, a Curriculum Officer, and Mr Kennedy Tukutama, the Administration Manager. The workshop was chaired by the Director herself and facilitated by Mr Tokai. The staff of



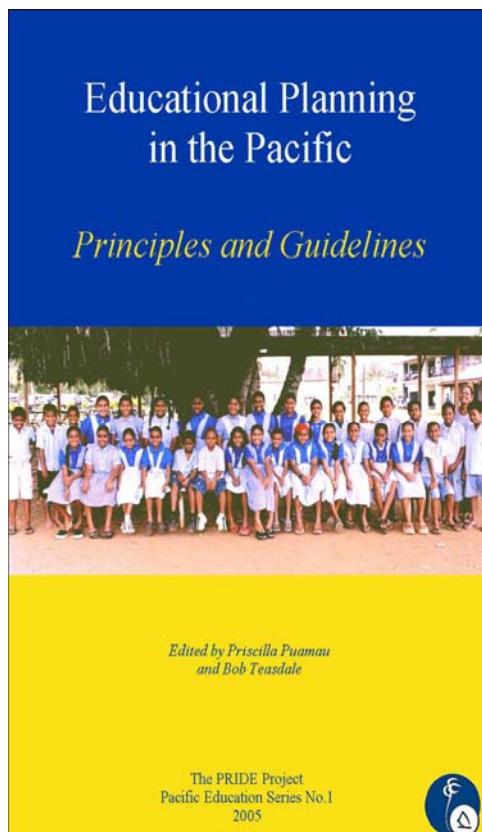
Heading for the workshop, Janet Tasmania leads the way at the recently concluded Teacher Education Workshop

the Department worked tirelessly as a team to achieve the objective of the workshop, showing real commitment to and ownership of their work.

The involvement of the staff is a good example of a consultative and participatory approach, not only to educational planning but to the development of subprojects proposals. It reflects the leadership

(continued on page 4)

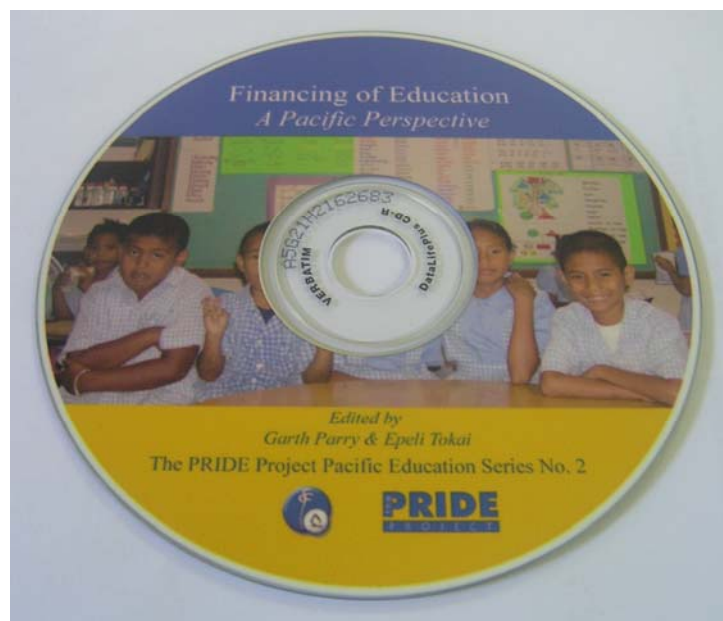
The PRIDE Project Education Series: Book and CD now available!!!



Copies of the first publication in the Pacific Education Series, **Educational Planning in the Pacific: Principles and Guidelines**, have been distributed widely in the region. Any Ministry of Education requiring additional copies for staff professional development programmes may obtain them at no cost by writing to the Project Manager and explaining exactly how they will be used. Copies also may be purchased from us at the low cost of FJD 8 (or through USP Book Store). Orders should be sent to pride@usp.ac.fj. The full text of the book also is available on-line: www.usp.ac.fj/pride and choose *Reports and Publications* from the top menu.

Copies of the second publication in the Pacific Education Series, **Financing of Education: A Pacific Perspective**, are being distributed as a CD-ROM. Any of the 15 Ministries of Education requiring copies for staff professional development may obtain

them at no cost by writing to the Project Manager and explaining exactly how they will be used. The full text of the CD-ROM is available on-line at: www.usp.ac.fj/pride and choose *Reports and Publications* from the top menu.



Latest news from the Project

At the October meeting of the Project Steering Committee, two **PRIDE regional workshops** were approved for 2006. The first, to be held in late May or early June, in the Kingdom of Tonga, will have as its theme: **Back to the basics in basic education: enhancing literacy and numeracy in Pacific schools**. A key partner in delivering this workshop will be the Honolulu based Pacific Resources for Education & Learning (PREL).

The second workshop is planned for **Palau** in October or November, and will explore the role of TVET in secondary schools. This workshop will be run in partnership with UNEVOC, UNESCO International Centre for TVET, Bonn.

The **PRIDE Benchmarks** were revisited at the NPC workshop in September, and several small but significant amendments and additions recommended. These were ratified at the PSC meeting the following month. Please visit our website www.usp.ac.fj/pride to see the latest version of the benchmarks document.

The PRIDE Project Director, Dr Bob Teasdale, visited the Kingdom of Tonga in December to meet the new Minister for Education, the **Hon Rev Dr Tevita Palefau**, and to discuss arrangements for the next regional workshop (see above). Plans also were finalised for implementation of a sub-project in the field of special needs education.

In January the PRIDE team welcomed back **Libby Cass**, the Project Information Specialist. Libby has just returned from 5 months maternity leave. We say a big thankyou to Vilimaina Vakaciwa who kindly filled in during Libby's absence.

Our warmest congratulations to PRIDE NPC in Vanuatu, **Antoine Thyna**, who has won an EU scholarship for full-time MBA studies at USP in 2006. We look forward to welcoming you to the University, Antoine. We are delighted to welcome our new NPC, John Niroa, Director of Secondary Education.

Still in **Vanuatu**, we were pleased to learn that a team from the Ministry of Education, supported by PRIDE consultant Mr John Henly, had completed the first draft of an Open & Distance Learning (ODL) policy for implementation in Vanuatu. A small team from Vanuatu will be funded by PRIDE to make a study visit to Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands in February. They will explore how these countries are implementing ODL at pre-tertiary and tertiary levels.

We have just received word that **Repeta Puna** has resigned as Director of Policy and Planning with the Cook Islands Ministry of Education. We say a big thankyou to Repeta from all of the PRIDE extended family and wish her well as she journeys on to new opportunities and adventures.

Correction: Tri-lingual workshop in Vanuatu

In our third newsletter we described the very successful workshop held in Port Vila in March 2005, proudly proclaiming it as the first time the Vanuatu Ministry of Education had ever attempted a tri-lingual workshop with joint Francophone/Anglophone participation.

But corporate memories are short! We have since received a very gentle rebuke from John Weeks, still thriving in the mountain air of Armidale, NSW. John was founding director of the USP Institute of Education (IOE) and subsequently, during the early 1980s, served as

adviser to the Vanuatu Ministry of Education.

He assures us that IOE was involved in a very successful trilingual workshop for educational administrators in Port Vila in 1979. And again, during his period as Education Adviser in Vanuatu between 1982 and 1985, John assures us that all Ministry meetings, curriculum committees and workshops were trilingual, using French, English, and Bislama.

Thank you John, for setting the record straight. And from all your friends in the Pacific, our warmest greetings. ■

Assisting Niue with its sub project

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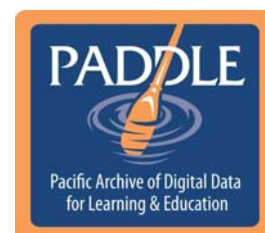
style of the Director who values the wisdom and knowledge her staff can contribute to the work of the Department.

There was a lot of enthusiasm and plenty of new ideas generated during the discussion throughout the four days of the workshop.

At the end, the participants had agreed on four areas and developed proposals for each one:

- Developing vernacular resources to accommodate curriculum changes
- Effective teachers and teaching in Niue schools
- Developing 'Net' Programs using diagnostic assessments for literacy and numeracy
- Development of the Niue High School Self-accessing Learning Centre.

The feedback from the Director of Education and Deputy Director were that the week was a very fruitful one. PRIDE would like to thank the teachers of the two schools for sacrificing their holiday time to be involved in this important capacity building exercise. ■



We are currently adding documents to our Online Resource Centre.

Visit us: www.usp.ac.fj/pride_paddle