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UN Pacific Regional Anti-Corruption Project

July 2017 Newsletter



Innovation Impact at Youth Lab

Youth representatives from 13 Pacific Island countries and territories gathered for the Pacific Youth Anti-Corruption Innovation Lab in Nadi, Fiji, in April to develop innovative solutions to address corruption challenges in selected policy areas.

The Innovation Lab was realized through a partnership between the United Nations Pacific Regional Anti-Corruption (UN-PRAC) Project and the Pacific Youth Council, with the support of UNODC's Education for Justice

(E4J) initiative and the Washington & Lee University's Law School in the United States.

"The idea of the Anti-Corruption Innovation Lab is to provide a platform for young leaders from the region to get together and brainstorm creative approaches to increase youth involvement in the area of anti-corruption, thereby contributing to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 16 targets in the Pacific", explained Mihaela Stojkoska, Anti-

Corruption Specialist, UNDP Pacific Office.

The five themes of the event were: citizens' friendly budget, access to information, oceans management and youth role in resilience building and disaster risk management from an accountability and anti-corruption education perspective. Joining the regional participants were students from the Washington & Lee University who study corruption with Prof. Thomas Speedy Rice.

Integrity Partnerships Building in the Pacific

The UN-Pacific Regional Anti-Corruption (UN-PRAC) Project is supporting anti-corruption activities large and small during 2017. With the project's support, Solomon Islands launched their national anti-corruption strategy, while Kiribati and Vanuatu proceeded with the development of their strategies. We hope that this newsletter shows what we have achieved together to prevent and fight corruption in the region.

Investigators, prosecutors proactive in fight against corruption

An interactive session designed to discuss international best practices and specific challenges when investigating and prosecuting corruption in the Pacific, gathered investigators, prosecutors and law enforcement officials from 15 Pacific Island countries and territories.

UN-PRAC conducted a three-day workshop in June for investigators and prosecutors in Nadi with the aim of strengthening collaboration and enhancing their capacity to investigate and prosecute corruption.

“The sessions were designed to be practical and interactive, and the participants worked together on problems based on real investigations,” said Maria Adomeit, Regional Anti-Corruption Adviser (UNODC) with UN-PRAC.

“While bringing in international best practices, the training considered specific challenges that small Pacific States are facing.”

The training also discussed the preparation of an investigation plan, the analysis of evidence such as financial records and the questioning of potential targets.

Niue Police Sergeant Ramona Jackson highlighted some Pacific specific challenges faced by small island states when he said, “Niue has a population of approximately 1500, meaning criminal investigations often lead to prosecuting family members.”



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Solomons, Vanuatu take stock

UN-PRAC joined the Office of the Prime Minister of the Solomon Islands and the Anti-Corruption Resource Centre - U4 in conducting a workshop on implementation, evaluation and monitoring of the Solomon Islands National Anti-Corruption Strategy (NACS) in March. The workshop, supported by DFAT, was an immediate follow-up of the recent adoption of the NACS.

UN-PRAC also supported Vanuatu’s Ministry of Justice and the Office of the Prime Minister to hold workshops with the National Anti-Corruption Committee and civil society in June, dedicated to formulation of a national anti-corruption strategy. This work built upon two previous events in which the national stakeholders already started working on prioritizing the anti-corruption issues in the country.

Kiribati’s Anti-Corruption Committee tunes strategy

Kiribati’s National Anti-Corruption Committee undertook an intense second retreat during May to enable stakeholders to review and refine activities planned under Kiribati’s National Anti-Corruption Strategy.



Tuvalu embraces UNCAC review with gusto



Representatives of the Tuvalu Government and civil society gathered together to review and prioritize the recommendations from the 1st cycle of the UNCAC Implementation Review Mechanism, and plan for other anti-corruption priorities in the country.

Fiji , Kiribati MPs work to advance integrity

Parliamentarians in Fiji (below) and Kiribati (left, below left) held workshops with UN-PRAC to incorporate good integrity practices into their committee work. Kiribati's Standing Committee on Anti-Corruption tabled seven reports in Parliament either side of UN-PRAC's weekend workshop with the MPs in April. Fiji's Global Organisation of Parliamentarians Against Corruption (GOPAC) chapter worked with GOPAC CEO Akaash Maharaj from Canada.



UN-PRAC stakeholders make their mark in the media

Media coverage and social media posts related to UN-PRAC activities:

- Twitter post by Maria Adoniew: "#Pacific delegation at @UNCAC implementation review mtg. Great to work w/ these wonderful people! #Kiribati #Tuvalu #Vanuatu. @MihaelaStoj" (Screenshot of a tweet)
- Twitter post by Hiterunga Rae: "29 June 2017: Met with Mayor Bakaia and Clerk Alice to update on youth work around corruption and handed the UNCAC resources. Thank you Mayor for welcoming us!" (Screenshot of a tweet)
- News article: "Vanuatu politicians rush through AML/CTF legislation saving the country from being blacklisted | ABC News |" (Screenshot of a news article)
- News article: "Pacific Development @pacdev" (Screenshot of a news article)

UN Convention Against Corruption in the Pacific

Pacific States Parties to UNCAC	Date of ratification/ accession
Cook Islands	17 October 2011
Federated States of Micronesia	21 March 2012
Fiji	14 May 2008
Kingdom of Tonga	
Kiribati	27 September 2013
Nauru	12 July 2012
Niue	
Palau	24 March 2009
Papua New Guinea	16 July 2007
Republic of the Marshall Islands	17 November 2011
Samoa	
Solomon Islands	6 January 2012
Tokelau (New Zealand)	
Tuvalu	4 September 2015
Vanuatu	12 July 2011

News article: "National Anti-Corruption Committee Meets Visiting Specialists"

21 April, 2017, Utirevei Restaurant, Ambo – Whilst Parliament was nervously discussing -throw away at Utirevei Restaurant, members of the National Anti-Corruption Committee, released by the Select Committee on Anti-Corruption, a stone-throw away at Utirevei Restaurant, members of the National Anti-Corruption Committee, comprised mostly of government officials and representatives from several NGOs, were sharing information with visiting anti-corruption specialists. Ms. Mikaela Stojkos and John Hyde of UNDP in Fiji and Tongan MP, Lord Fusitu'a, chairman of the Tongan government's Standing Committee on Anti-Corruption, developed by the Committee. Ms. Stojkos reported that they had reviewed the Plan and noted outstanding areas and those that require improvements. KILGA, a founding member of the Committee, has also received some assistance from UNDP over the years on various projects.

Anti-Corruption specialists Ms. Mikaela Stojkos, John Hyde and Tongan MP Lord Fusitu'a, at Utirevei Restaurant

UNDP Pacific & PNG @UNDP_Pacific

Washington & Lee Uni. School of Law students exchange knowledge with PIC youth based on their experience studying #corruption #PacYouthPower

Teena Brown Pulu @TeenaBrownPulu

Fact: Tonga's parliamentary standing committee on anti corruption: "integrity, democracy, rule of law" form core values. #anticorruption



Welcome Maria

Maria Lee (left) joins UN-PRAC as the new Programme Assistant in the Suva office. Maria was previously Administrative Assistant in UNDP's Peace & Development Unit.

Hello Hollie

Hollie Webb (right) has interned with UN-PRAC since May. She is currently a third year law student at Washington and Lee University School of Law, in Virginia in the US. Hollie has also worked on the implementation of UNCAC in Small Island Developing States with the Independent Commission against Corruption in Mauritius and as a journalist.

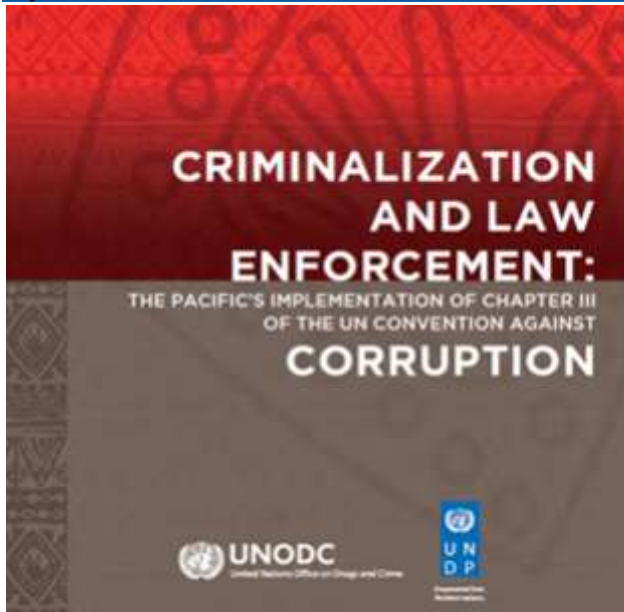


UN-PRAC launches new toolkit for youth

UN-PRAC has launched a new resource for Pacific youth to help in their anti-corruption advocacy in the region. The toolkit will soon be available online - please contact Maria Lee at UN-PRAC to be emailed your copy of the new toolkit.

Tongan Youth Advocate accepts UN-PRAC award

Tongan youth advocate Nonga Puluhi was presented with an award for his prize-winning media production on anti-corruption, during an UN-PRAC outreach mission in Nukualofa by UN-PRAC's Mihaela Stojkoska.



UN-PRAC has launched new materials : an Integrity Advocates Toolkit and two handbooks on Implementation of Criminalization and Law Enforcement (Chapter 111, above) and International Cooperation (Chapter 1V) Please contact the UN-PRAC team to receive your copies.



For more information, please contact:

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Pacific executive summaries of the UNCAC review reports can be found under the country-specific pages at: <http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/treaties/CAC/country-profile/index.html>.

The UN-PRAC Project is a joint four-year initiative of UNDP and UNODC, supported by the Australian Government.



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