



# Emerging Pacific Leaders' Dialogue (EPLD) 2006 Summary

**Title:** Emerging Pacific Leaders' Dialogue (EPLD) 2006

**Theme:** Navigating Our Future Together

**Timing:** Two weeks commencing on Wednesday 28 June 2006

**Participants:** Approx. 120 high calibre men and women expected to attain positions of leadership within their chosen fields within the next 5-10 years.

Participants have been drawn from the business, trade union and government sectors across the member and observer nations of the Pacific Islands Forum. Participants typically fall in the age range late 20's to early 40's and are selected on merit via a publicly advertised application process. 80 EPLD places have been allocated to participants from Pacific island nations with the balance of 40 or so from Australia and New Zealand.

**Format:** The EPLD will follow the long-standing practice of Commonwealth Study Conferences and feature 2-3 day formal opening plenary sessions in Australia (Brisbane) and closing plenary sessions over a similar time frame in New Zealand (Auckland). The opening and closing will be separated by a full week of 10 study tours of some 12/13 participants each visiting separate Pacific island nation locations from 1 to 8 July 2006 (subject to flight schedules). Study tours membership represents a microcosm of the diversity of overall EPLD participants and these visits are the centrepiece of the overall leadership development experience. Study tour visits and discussions focus on the issues and challenges confronting Pacific island communities in the context of the EPLD theme and provide an opportunity for the group member to observe, listen, learn and share knowledge and experiences. All study tour groups are required to make formal presentations at the closing plenary and provide a written report of their study tour experiences. Study tour groups are not expected to make recommendations for change or prepare calls for action.

## **Study Tour**

**Locations:** The study tours destinations are PNG (2), Fiji (2), Tonga (1), Samoa (1), The Solomons/Vanuatu (1), Cook Islands/Auckland (1), South East Queensland/Kiribati (1) and New Caledonia (1). In view of recent events in Honiara, a watching brief is being maintained over this destination.

## **Sub-Theme**

### **Areas:**

EPLD activities will focus on the theme and selected sub-theme areas. It is expected that study tour visits and discussions will address some of the following:

1. **Economic growth and industry:** best practice examples, inhibitors to growth; jobs; income, financial management; the roles of business, government and unions; the impact of external factors; infrastructure; overseas education and work; remittances; sustainable development; trade liberalisation; micro-finance; grassroots economic progress.
2. **Regional co-operation and infrastructure:** pooling regional resources; long-term co-operation; the Pacific Islands Forum Plan; the Pacific Agreement on Closer Economic Relations; interaction with broader international institutions; the role of aid and aid donors.
3. **Good governance:** the essential elements of good governance; political and corporate governance; public sector effectiveness; strengthening democratic institutions; civil society and the media; links between good governance and growth; interaction between national governments; service delivery and strengthening regional institutions.
4. **Security, stability and strengthening communities:** tradition versus modern; service delivery and support; community capacity building; causes of instability; law and order; role of security co-operation; conflict prevention and resolution; demographic issues (including the youth drift from outer areas); the role of traditional authority; migration; role of women; sports development; domestic violence; role of family; impact of training and education.
5. **Environment, education, science and health:** the land; the sea; the air; fisheries; forests, mining and other primary industries; environmental health management; role of science from both an environment and health perspective; the role of the education sector, rural-urban disparities; urban settlement; waste management; fresh water supplies; demographic pressures; physical and mental health (including HIV); delivery of medical and health services.

### **Costs/ Funding**

The costs of all travel, accommodation and meals for selected participants from dinner on Tuesday 27 June to breakfast on Wednesday 12 July 2006 will be met by the EPLD organising body. The costs of travel to the opening from home and from the closing to home are met by the organisers.

Thanks to the generous support of the Australian and New Zealand governments and private sector organizations across the region almost 90% of the estimated total EPLD costs of some AUD\$1.8 million have been received or committed. Fundraising focussed on the private sector and unions across Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific region as well

as from participating governments other than the Australian and New Zealand.

24 June 2006