



BUCKINGHAM PALACE

It is an honour and a pleasure to be attending the first Emerging Pacific Leaders' Dialogue 2006, an exciting and innovative regional initiative of The Duke of Edinburgh's Commonwealth Study Conference organising bodies in Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific.

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the Commonwealth Study Conference movement and I know that the original objectives are as relevant today as they ever were. The Conferences are an experience that leave participants with many of their assumptions challenged and their world view expanded, as they meet, work and talk with people from different backgrounds, different cultures and with different perceptions.

I congratulate the organisers of the EPLD for utilising the long-established CSC vision and its practical format to strengthen future leadership capacity in the region. It demonstrates that the CSC continues to be a vital and responsive institution that has much to offer in an increasingly complex global environment.

I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible during the EPLD and invite you to embrace the experience ahead.