NAVIGATING OUR FUTURE TOGETHER
An Investment in Leadership across the Pacific

The Emerging Pacific Leaders’ Dialogue 2010 (EPLD 2010) is an event of national and regional significance scheduled to take place in March 2010 which will strengthen the capacity of the region’s future leaders to manage challenges collaboratively, positively and creatively.

Our emerging leaders must have clear vision and strong skills to address the challenges of globalisation and interdependence. At the same time they will need to preserve the values that bind people and communities.

The theme of Pacific Dialogue – Navigating Our Future Together – builds upon the strong foundations of the successful inaugural EPLD held in 2006. “Navigating” conveys the idea of charting a course, working together and negotiating the shifting tides and currents.

The Pacific peoples are amongst the world’s most heterogeneous – a mix of ethnicities, indigenous peoples, mariners and settlers who have navigated the extremes, adapted to their environment and are now being called upon to meet new challenges.

Initiated by the highly respected Commonwealth Study Conference organisations in Australia and New Zealand and their alumni, this outstanding event has received generous support from governments and the private sector. As at early 2009, firm cash funding commitments have been received for almost two-thirds of the AUD$2.0 million required to successfully stage EPLD 2010. Enthusiastic endorsement has also come from leading industry groups, non-government organisations, educational institutions and regional bodies such as the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat.

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MESSAGE: EMERGING PACIFIC LEADERS’ DIALOGUE

It gives me great pleasure to extend my best wishes to the second Emerging Pacific Leaders’ Dialogue.

The Australian Government has begun a new era of cooperation with its Pacific island neighbours. We are committed to working with Pacific island countries to improve standards of living and hasten regional progress towards the Millennium Development Goals. The Pacific Partnerships for Development initiative, which I launched in Port Moresby in March 2008, provides a bold new framework for Australia to work with Pacific countries to achieve shared development goals, and I welcome the warm reception to this initiative across the region.

We are also committed to building on the longstanding ties of friendship that exist between Australians and Pacific islanders, forged through extensive government, business, academic and community engagement. Stronger links between Australia and Pacific island countries will be vital in addressing our common challenges, including advancing regional economic integration and mitigating and adapting to the effects of climate change.

I hope that the second Emerging Pacific Leaders’ Dialogue will prove to be a vibrant and effective forum for building leadership skills that are critical to the sustainable long-term development of the Pacific. It is important that the dialogue creates a strong network of emerging leaders who, by sharing their ideas, skills and knowledge, can drive a robust and effective response to the challenges facing the region.

I wish Commonwealth Study Conferences (Australia) every success with the second Pacific Emerging Leaders’ Dialogue.

The Honourable Kevin Rudd MP
Prime Minister of Australia
Why Sponsor the Emerging Pacific Leaders’ Dialogue 2010?

You will be investing in:

- A unique development opportunity for future decision makers that will contribute to sustainable leadership and governance across the Pacific region
- The promotion of regional understanding and co-operation through an improved network of key relationships across sectors and nations

By bringing these leaders together EPLD provides a unique opportunity to interact, promote a collaborative approach to problem solving and enable the development of personal networks, peers and mentors. Many participants experience professional isolation created by the small size of their communities. Networking groups have been established from the inaugural 2006 program where Alumni regularly keep in touch personally and professionally.

While the interests, personal skills and knowledge of participants vary, they will all share a common identity as future leaders in the region. Participants will be chosen through competitive merit-based selection from the ranks of business, industry, government, trade union, arts, education and other community sectors including NGOs.

Participating nations will include: Australia, Cook Islands, East Timor, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, French Polynesia, Kiribati, Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu. Other Pacific nations may also be invited to participate.

“The approach used in EPLD offers a constructive paradigm for regional co-operation for development in the Pacific. EPLD 2006 was a program between equals which recognised common challenges, promoted a collaborative approach to problem solving and acknowledged the virtue of mutual learning for all. Participants were seen as equals, with valuable and different contributions to make, with a willingness to address local, national and regional challenges...”

I do not expect my life will ever quite be the same because in a very real sense my world is no longer the same. The world that I now live in is vastly bigger, richer, more colourful and complex. My new world incorporates a wholly different appreciation of not only the Pacific in general, but also of Australia and indeed myself and the challenges and opportunities we all face as part of this significant region….

Simon Kennedy
Senior Consultant
Audrey Page & Associates
Australia

I have been a great fan of the Emerging Pacific Leaders Dialogue as an initiative that has a unique and significant contribution to make to the region but particularly the potential and burgeoning leaders of the Pacific. In that regard I was delighted to have had a role in the inaugural EPLD held in 2006.

This initiative seeks to identify and nurture the future leaders of the Pacific region. I would encourage potential donors and possible supporters considering participation in the initiative to commit their interest and resources to a program that promises future benefits for all who work and live in this region. To past donors we invite your continued support and involvement in ensuring that the Pacific’s voyage remains a fruitful and successful journey for us all. We have at no other time seen the importance of public leadership and the need for collective action…let this be your opportunity to be a part of the overall endeavor.

Brenda Heather-Latu
Samoa Chair
Pacific Leadership Foundation Board

**Program Overview**

**EPLD 2010** is scheduled to take place over a two week period in March 2010. The Opening Plenary to take place in Samoa and the Closing Plenary in Tonga.

**Objectives**

The Emerging Pacific Leaders’ Dialogue 2010 will:

- Promote a culture of leadership in the Pacific that is aligned with democratic values and good governance
- Enhance communication, collaborative problem solving and decision-making amongst future leaders
- Expose participants to diverse cultures and increase their awareness of challenges facing the region
- Build enduring relationships across communities, sectors and nations by creating an active and influential Alumni network
- Develop participants’ leadership skills and broaden their horizons

The program will focus on a number of areas of strategic significance – economic growth; regional co-operation and infrastructure; governance and leadership; security, stability and strengthening communities; climate and environment; industry education and health.

The three stages of the program are:

**Opening and briefing** – Participants will spend two days on Opening Plenary presentations, briefings and group discussions. In these sessions they will begin their enquiry into the values and purpose of leadership in the Pacific at a personal, country and regional level.

**Study tours** – The core of the EPLD 2010 program involves ten study tours to ten separate locations throughout the Pacific region, each of one week duration. Of the ten, eight study tours are expected to be hosted by separate Pacific island countries/territories and Australia and New Zealand are planning to each host one study tour. Study tours will visit different communities and workplaces looking at local industrial, commercial and social situations focusing on the key challenges confronting those in positions of leadership and influence. The emphasis will be on teamwork and personal interaction, as participants negotiate, communicate and learn in an intense and challenging new environment. Study tours provide a focus for discussion, exchange and reflection between participants and senior level hosts. In this highly interactive process participants will be challenged, have their assumptions challenged and learn to challenge others.

**Report back and closing** – Each study tour group will present a report back to the Closing Plenary session. Following her participation in the inaugural EPLD in 2006, HRH The Princess Royal, Princess Anne has again been invited to attend the Closing Plenary and provide expert commentary on the report back presentations.
Mr Brian Pickett  
Chief Executive and Executive Director EPLD2  
Commonwealth Study Conferences (Australia) Inc.  
GPO Box 2733  
Sydney NSW 2001  
AUSTRALIA

Dear Mr Pickett,

Statement of Support for the Emerging Pacific Leaders’ Dialogue Programme

I am writing to formally express our support for the Emerging Pacific Leaders’ Dialogue Programme.

Along with most regions of the world, the Pacific Region faces some real challenges in the future. Further, the development efforts of a number of Pacific nations are hampered by their small size, their small populations, their remoteness, their limited resources and their environmental vulnerability.

Following the very successful inaugural Emerging Pacific Leaders’ Dialogue (EPLD) held in June/July 2006, a further network of 120 or so high caliber mid-career men and women will be produced by a second EPLD scheduled to be staged across the Pacific in March 2010.

This important regional initiative for our future leaders will positively assist the building of human capability for the implementation of systems, partnerships and programmes that respect the sovereignty, governance and that each Pacific Island nation is ultimately responsible for its own development.

I commend you and the organizers for the decision to stage the second EPLD.

Yours sincerely,

Dr The Hon Feleti Vakatua Savele  
Prime Minister

28 February 2009
Governance and Management

The Pacific Leadership Foundation (PLF) has been established by Commonwealth Study Conferences (Australia) Inc and operates as a non-profit non-government organisation with the aim of promoting leadership standards across the Pacific region.

The Eminent Person Group, the Board and Committees of the PLF are made up of regional representative leaders as well as CSC/EPLD Alumni supported by a small Secretariat headed up by the CEO of Commonwealth Study Conferences (Australia) Inc. It is also planned to appoint Secretariat support staff in 2/3 Pacific Island locations.

Our Eminent Persons Group

HH Tui Atua, Head of State, Samoa & Patron of the PLF
Sir William Deane, Australia
Ratu Joni Madraiwiwi, Fiji
HRH Princess Pilolevu, Kingdom of Tonga
Sir Paul Reeves, New Zealand
Dame Meg Taylor, Papua New Guinea

Our Board

Ms Brenda Heather-Latu, Samoa. Chair
Ms Carolyn Bloch, Australia. Deputy Chair (CSC1986)
Mr Hannington Alatoa, Vanuatu
Mr Taam Biribo, Kiribati
Mr Robert Goh, Solomon Islands (CSC1986)
Mr Robert Ibara, Papua New Guinea
Mr Bob Lyon, Fiji
Mr Angus MacDonald, Australia (AusAID)
Mr Miles Middlemass, New Zealand
Mr James Movick, Federated States of Micronesia (Chair PiPSO)
Mr Brian Pickett, Australia (CSC1986)
Ms Rolande Trolue, New Caledonia
Ms Mishka Tuifua, Kingdom of Tonga

Remembering EPLD 2006...

“EPLD was absolutely awesome and life-changing. The conference revealed the importance of Governance in order for a nation to develop progressively and provided the ideal environment to share views and opinions on a wide variety of issues concerning the region. I gained much information which I am sure will serve my aspirations as an emerging leader in my community and country.”
Turaho Morea, PNG
Contact Us

If you are interested in becoming a sponsor of the Emerging Pacific Leaders’ Dialogue 2010, please contact us:

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