PACE-NET Plus Platform
Auckland, 10-11 December 2014
OUTCOME OF THE DIALOGUE

Moving towards a policy dialogue in Science, Technology and Innovation (ST&I)
-Science diplomacy to serve policy demands-

The Pacific-Europe Network for Science, Technology (PACE-NET Plus) held its first bi-regional policy dialogue platform in Auckland (NZ), on the 10th and 11th of December. The main goals of PACE-Net Plus are to strengthen cooperation in STI and to support the bi-regional policy dialogue between the EU and the Pacific, and within the Pacific.

The Pacific is a long term partner of the European Union and is on the front line of major global challenges such as climate change and is a source of key natural resources.

More than 80 policy makers, officials and scientists participated in this event, the purpose of which was to reflect on how to build on a regional strategic framework on STI, and how this could contribute to a global partnership between the Pacific region and the European Union.

The outcomes of the six thematic Think Tanks that were held this year on health, food security, climate change and natural resources, in the framework of the project were delivered and fed policy recommendations for science, development and innovation.

An action plan was drafted with all participants, which will form the basis for the future EU-Pacific global partnership, to be further intensified according to mutual interest, and optimizing the use of all cooperation opportunities.

PACE-NET PLUS
PACIFIC-EUROPE NETWORK FOR SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION

European Commission

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What are your expectations from this policy dialogue?

- Reinforce EU support for Pacific economic integration and issues such as climate change.
- Assist STI in order to put the right policies & mechanisms in place (support for decision makers, support coordination in STI).
- Foster dialogue with national research councils, to reinforce them and to address societal challenges.
- Identify “on the ground” scientific activities that can directly inform policy.
- Identifying best practices that are suitable for the region.
- Address emerging issues of the Pacific, such as threatened species and deep sea mining. Take action on these issues.
- Participate in PACE-Net Plus and look at opportunities in Horizon 2020 in order to assist human resources and technical capacity and research towards national strategies.
- Learn how to structure a national science policy framework.
- Identify and extends partnerships between different regional and national scientific communities.
- Generate critical mass and voice for generating impact on collaboration.
- Identify existing opportunities in terms of capacities that exist in STI in Europe and Pacific.
- Identify existing communication channels to assist in generating critical mass in communication to highlight Pacific needs and opportunities in Europe, and vice versa.
- What are the funding opportunities at the EU and national level, and how can we bring them together in a strategic way.
- To network, today, and identify research challenges and to make an impact towards these challenges.
- Find a way to coordinate initiatives, achieve sustainability and identify actions.
- Discuss priorities for building global partnerships and collaborations.
- Raise the issue of a regional STI framework with the Pacific leaders.
- Understand the advantages for going via PNP to access European opportunities.
- Take forward already identified project ideas from previous PNP think-tanks.
- See how we can increase cooperation between Pacific and Europe, given different regional perspectives.
- How to integrate STI into regional training frameworks.

- How to integrate various training activities into STI framework.
- Learn about outcomes of think tanks.
- Boost coordination in research activities.
- Assess how PACE-Net Plus can increase capacity building in the Pacific, in particular the smaller institutions integrating with networks.

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Advocacy for a policy dialogue

- The Pacific needs to identify its comparative advantage, and focus on research that is pertinent to Pacific development.
- Bring about societal change to solve key problems/issues.
- Build/gain knowledge for development.
- Policy dialogue should be well thought-out, and have different focussed events.
- Virtually all of the challenges that we face have a scientific component.
- Science has a role in providing what we know, and what we don't know, to the policy makers so they can make effective policy.
- Informal scientific advice into the policy formation process relies on person-person networks.
- Science advice is central in crisis situations. Needs a trust in the scientific process. Also need to recognise skill of those in boundary roles at the interface between the scientific world and the policy world (i.e. "science" and "science advice" are different skill sets).
- Need to build the capacity of scientists to bridge the gap between scientists and policy makers.
- Network to allow countries with less-developed STI environments to access those with experience and capacities.
- The Pacific is a region of large ocean states.
- The Pacific is a living laboratory (bio-diversity, societal, resources), that can be studied and exploited.
- The Pacific, as small island states, cannot study its own resources because they do not have the capacity alone.
- Need to build upon existing capacities and resources in the Pacific.
- How do we set prominent inclusion of STI in the Pacific Plan?
- How do we generate new knowledge for priority challenges in the Pacific?
- How do we share physical and intellectual resources?
- How do we collectively work with international organisations?
- Trust is of essence of all interactions. Interpersonal trust is required for a trust in science.
- Policy dialogue is an excellent platform for promoting trust.
- Communicate the diversity of the Pacific as an asset to European research.
- Policy dialogue is extremely important to help identify sustainable mechanisms for funding regional scientific programs.

Agenda setting

Objectives

Why should we have a STI policy dialogue?

What form should such a dialogue take?

Priorities

46 How to access sustainable funding to support ongoing activities. Ensure integration with existing frameworks to ensure coherence of messages.

33 Develop a regional STI framework, and support STI within regional policy frameworks. Developing an appropriate IP framework for the region.

27 How to actualise collaborative project ideas (funding, coordination, activities, etc). Translate discussion into future actions.

26 Identify actual scientific activities to support policy priorities.

18 STI capacity building (*e.g.* networks).

17 How can we apply, develop and make use of traditional knowledge.

13 How can we highlight the importance of S&T in the political agenda. Present strong rationale for the leaders.

12 Involving the public in the discussions and communication activities. How to involve industry into the STI dialogue.

8 Support collaboration by reinforcing communication channels and creating a voice for the Pacific.

0 How to develop and maintain trust within scientific community and between scientific and policy communities?

0 How can we justify our existence as a platform to the European taxpayer.

0 How to manage existing resources?

Clarify what we expect as the impacts.
Which organisation(s) could/should continue the dialogue beyond the PNP project?
Connect to existing efforts, knowledge, etc.

Priorities

46 How to access sustainable funding to support ongoing activities. Ensure integration with existing frameworks to ensure coherence of messages.

- Map of funding opportunities (e.g. Horizon 2020, EDF, EU Member States, joint programming)
- PNP has seed funding for helping begin larger collaborative project and activities
- What do we do when our project ideas aren't eligible for funding from large programmes like Horizon 2020
- How can we meet the parameters for all of the different funding programmes
- How can Pacific nations track their funding flows for S&T
- Better coordination between different funders
- Sustainability of funding. Big issues require long-term monitoring and data collection, and hence require long-term funding. Short-term funding doesn't allow such activities to succeed.
- Comprehensive map of ongoing activities in each field of research
- Sustainability of funding should include provisions for innovation
- There is funding leakage due to duplication of research from one country to another
- EDF looking towards big, longer-term, projects, rather than small short isolated projects. This improves sustainability, but they also expect project to become self-sufficient.
- The PACE-Net Plus community of practice can be useful to helpful to identify those researchers working in key thematic areas.
- Which EU programs are open to Pacific researchers, and *vice versa*, which will allow mobility and hence develop long term collaborations?
- A regional STI framework will make it easier to attract sustainable funding.

33 Develop a regional STI framework, and support STI within regional policy frameworks. Developing an appropriate IP framework for the region

- Almost all Pacific governments don't recognise the importance of STI. Hence, we need a strong rationale to put STI on the policy table.
- There's very little interaction between universities and governments, which hinders the uptake of advice in policy.
- For governments to invest in STI requires a cultural change within government. The first step can be to set up a council that is able to create a STI framework.
- Governments, however, are unable (or unwilling) to make any financial commitments towards regional "STI" initiatives.
- Tonga is currently exploring a national research institute, focussed initially on limited key thematics.
- Samoa had to invest in a national research organisation because they had to change their agricultural export procedures to comply with major export markets (i.e. Australia and NZ).

- Need national research councils, to act as "intermediaries" between science and government. No other place in the world has researchers going directly to government to ask for funding… they go to national research councils.
- Promote country researchers to be evaluators in Horizon 2020.
- Consider the existing regional structures as possible proxies for national research councils.
- Scientists need to be very loud with their governments to maintain the spotlight on STI for policy issues.
- Create a vision document for where we want STI in the national and regional level.
- When the EU set a STI public investment target, this promoted many nations in the EU to increase their funding in STI. Setting a goal is an aspirational target to strive towards.
- Develop a template for a research strategy that can be customised in each country. Put together a working group to develop this.
- Look beyond Horizon 2020 and EDF for funding. Also consider other major players, e.g. The World Bank, Asian Development Bank, etc.
- Connect the outcomes of the think tanks with the need for national and regional strategies.
- Instituting national capacities could lead to research silos.
- There is a huge disparity with regards to ability and capacity to host national research councils.
- Already there are many regional bodies, and it can be complex to determine who is responsible for different areas.
- It can be a challenge to include partners from the Pacific in EU projects, because funding is very competitive hence European partners only want to include strong partners.
- A lot of research is already been/being produced in the Pacific. But a lot is not accessible to the public or governments, hence there's a lot of duplication. Open access policies can be adopted to increase uptake of research.
- Use one or two of the Horizon 2020 tools to access EU programs. For example, Marie Curie RISE, instead of the heavier collaborative projects.
- National should lead the way on what should happen with research and data in their countries.
- Establishment of research centres/agencies can be a magnet for additional funds.
- Attract EU research on mobility schemes (6-12 months). Their presence can be leveraged to assist with training and capacity building whilst in the Pacific.
- Try to survey which Europeans are currently working in the Pacific.
- PNG has already established many of the bodies/protocols/policies that we are talking about.
- The Pacific is small – everybody knows everybody – so it should be possible for scientists to speak directly with ministers (e.g. even at their local supermarket!).
- Jito has written a recommendation to the Fiji government for a national research council.

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