



**PACIFIC DISABILITY FORUM**  
**Annual Report: 01 July 2010 to 30 June 2011**

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## 1. ACTIVITIES (COMPLETED OR UNDERWAY) JULY 2010 - JUNE 2011

The activities below are identified from the PDF Work Plan for the period beginning July 2010 to June 2011. The Chief Executive Officer's reports to the Executive Committee during its audio conference and in-person meetings, as well as reports presented by the Executive Committee and CEO at the PDF General Meeting held in April 2011 in Auckland, New Zealand were consulted to provide useful information for this section. Similarly, each staff of the PDF assessed the progress and achievements made against his/her individual work plan for the period under review and the information provided also contributed to this report.

No	Activities	Status	Comments
<b><u>Objective 1</u></b> To develop a responsive Regional organisation with requisite resources and financial stability to articulate and pursue the concerns of persons with disabilities in the Pacific Region.			
1.1	Strengthen the organisational capacity of PDF.		
Workforce development			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>In-house team development – quarterly:</li></ul>	Completed.	Staff ... <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>attended Review <i>of Staff workbook</i> held in July 2010 facilitated by CEO.</li><li>Attended session on <i>Time Management</i> held on November 03 2010 facilitated by CEO.</li><li>Attended <i>Monitoring and Evaluation Session</i> in February 2011 facilitated by Programme Manager.</li><li>attended session on Understanding Objectives and Strategies for developing individual work plans by CEO &amp; Programme Manager held in June 2011</li></ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Staff enrolment in short courses based on training needs assessment</li></ul>	Completed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>3 staff enrolled in sign language classes, 1 staff on information technology at University of South Pacific &amp; 2 staff on adaptive technology at PDF provided by specialist.</li></ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Staff Planning and Review Meeting</li></ul>	Completed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>PDF member DPOs and staff participated at the PDF Planning meeting held in Nadi, 11-13th November 2010.</li><li>Staff Retreat and Planning meeting held at The Pearl Resort, Deuba from 6-8</li></ul>

No	Activities	Status	Comments
			<p>January 2011 to review progress undertaken in the first 6 months of FY and plan for the remaining 6 months of FY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Staff planning meeting held at the Pearl Resort, Deuba from 29 June to 01 July 2011 to review progress, achievements and challenges of 2010-11 FY and plan for 2011-12 FY using 2011-12 approved annual work plan and budget</li> </ul>
<b>Governance and Capacity Building</b>			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ExCo meetings</li> </ul>	Completed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ExCo held on the following dates: 16th July and 15th November 2010, 4th January and 11th May 2011.</li> <li>In-person ExCo meeting on 3rd April 2011 in Auckland prior to General Meeting.</li> <li>Meeting arrangements and documentations organized by PDF Secretariat under CEO</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strategic Planning Meeting (Executive and Staff) to finalise 2011 – 2016 Strategic Plan</li> </ul>	Completed	<p>2011-2016 Strategic Plan was developed over the following phases:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1st phase included discussion on the strategic plan in Nadi, Fiji on the 11th – 12th November 2010 with the Executive Committee and members present at strategic planning training workshop.</li> <li>Nadi strategic plan framework was further developed by the PDF staff during their staff retreat between 6th–8th January 2011 to produce 1st draft.</li> <li>Draft strategic plan was submitted to the ExCo teleconference meeting in January 2011 and circulated to member DPOs and partners for their comments.</li> <li>2nd draft compiled by PDF Secretariat after feedback from ExCo, member DPOs and partners on the 1st draft.</li> <li>Draft 2011-2016 strategic plan presented</li> </ul>

No	Activities	Status	Comments
			<p>at the PDF General/ Council Meeting in April 2011 in Auckland, New Zealand and was provisionally approved by PDF members pending inclusion of input received during this meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PDF Secretariat finalized document after M&amp;E training in November 2011.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Secretariat Staff Meetings</li> </ul>	Completed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monthly meetings were attended by Secretariat staff, minutes were taken and relevant reports presented.</li> <li>Meeting dates: 29th July, 9th Sept, 7th Oct, 23rd Nov &amp; 21st Dec 2010. 11th Jan, 7th Feb, 17th Mar, 27th Apr, 12th May and 14th June 2011.</li> <li>Staff also attended Weekly Leadership meetings to plan work for the week ahead.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conduct M &amp; E on PDF programs with members as part of project evaluation</li> </ul>	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The M&amp;E of PDF program continued with Programme and Administration/Finance team providing progress reports during monthly staff meeting and weekly leadership meeting.</li> <li>These reports are formulated into quarterly report prepared by CEO and presented to the Board.</li> <li>In April 2011, CEO presented the annual report on PDF programs to the General forum.</li> <li>June 2011, PM provided an annual progress report on PDF programs as basis of annual report to NZAID.</li> </ul> <p>These reports assisted Lea Shaw in her evaluation of PDF for NZAID.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure audit of Financial Audit of 2009 – 2010 PDF accounts by approved auditor</li> </ul>	Completed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Audit of the 2009-10 accounts undertaken by approved auditor in August 2010.</li> <li>Presented and adopted by members at PDF General Meeting in Auckland, NZ in</li> </ul>

No	Activities	Status	Comments
			April 2011.
1.2	Ensure that the PDF is an effective and efficient organisation representative of National Disabled Peoples Organisations (NDPOs) and its members in the Pacific both regionally and internationally.		
	Encourage participation which reflects geographic, age, gender, disability type & experience at all levels of the organisation General Meeting – Involvement from members prior & during General meeting in probably in March 2011	Completed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PDF Secretariat staff worked together to ensure participation of NDPOs reflects geographic, age, gender, disability type &amp; experience.</li> <li>Reminder emails sent out in terms of DPO nomination on the 20 of December. DPO nomination came through including other interested participants were all sorted, in terms of accommodation, meals, and travel arrangements.</li> <li>A total of 110 participants from Australia, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Thailand, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu attended this biennial conference from 4-7 April 2011 at the Waipuna Hotel, Auckland, New Zealand.</li> <li>A host committee was established in New Zealand to work with the conference Team at PDF.</li> <li>Funding for this activity from 2010-11 approved budget, Global Fund for Women, AusAID International Seminar Support Scheme and NZ Participation Fund.</li> </ul>
<b>Regional Meetings</b>			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PIF Leaders Meeting (Vanuatu)</li> </ul>	-	PDF decided not to attend this particular meeting
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ADDC International Conference (Darwin, NT, Australia)</li> </ul>	Completed ADDC International Conference (Darwin, NT, Australia)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4 PDF staff and representatives from 8 member DPOs Attended ADDC meeting held in Darwin from 15 – 17 September 2010.</li> <li>Also attended disability sports workshop session and the research roundtable.</li> </ul>

No	Activities	Status	Comments
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>11<sup>th</sup> Triennial Conference of Pacific Women (Noumea, New Caledonia)</li> </ul>	Completed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PDF Gender &amp; Youth Officer attended the 11th Triennial Conference of Pacific Women from 16-20 August 2010 and contribute in group's discussion to addressed issues concerning women and girls with disabilities with development partners and women's organisation.</li> <li>Final outcomes document from the 11th Triennial Conference of Pacific women was circulated to PDF women's committee and to DPO's via the E-list serve. Recommendations on women and girls with disabilities in the Pacific Region were included in this document.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pacific RIM International Conference on Disability (Honolulu, Hawaii)</li> </ul>	-	PDF was not represented due to lack of funding and this meeting was not covered in the approved 2010-11 budget.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PRNGO Alliance</li> </ul>	Ongoing	PDF continued to work closely with PRNGO members in ensuring that disability is included in PRNGO's agenda for political change.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Other relevant meetings</i></li> </ul>		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>AusAID Disability Reference Group Meeting, 9th – 12 August 2010, Phnom Penh, Cambodia.</li> </ul>	Completed	CEO attended this meeting as member of the AusAID disability Reference Group with expenses covered by AusAID
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ICEVI Pacific and WBU EFA-VI Pacific, Sydney, Australia, 13<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> January 2011</li> </ul>	Completed	CEO attended this meeting as resource person. About 20 representatives from 10 Pacific Island countries also attended funded by AusAID.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PacINET Annual Conference, 13th – 17th September, Port Vila, Vanuatu</li> </ul>	Completed	Attended by the PDF Finance & Office Manager and representative from United Blind Persons of Fiji, a PDF member DPO.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Biennial Conference on South Pacific Educators in Vision Impairment (SPEVI), 17<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> January 2011</li> </ul>	Completed	CEO attended this meeting as conference speaker. About 20 representatives from 10 Pacific Island countries also attended funded by AusAID. Organised by ICEVI Pacific.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>UNESCAP Committee on Social Development, 2<sup>nd</sup> Session, 19<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> October 2012 (Bangkok, Thailand)</li> </ul>	Completed	CEO and PDF Co-Chair Sam Vilisoni attended this meeting to ensure that the Pacific voice on disability was represented

No	Activities	Status	Comments
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Global Partnership on Disability and Development Members Forum. (TBC)</li> </ul>	-	Meeting to be held in September 2011
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>63<sup>rd</sup> United Nations NGO Conference, Melbourne, Australia</li> </ul>	Completed	CEO and PDF Programme Manager attended this meeting funded by AusAID. Both presented papers at concurrent sessions.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>International Disability Alliance Council Meeting, 29<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> August, New York</li> </ul>	Completed	Co-chair Sam Vilisoni represented PDF at this meeting. PDF is a member of the IDA which covered travel and accommodation costs.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3<sup>rd</sup> Session of the Conference of State Parties to the UNCRPD, 1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> September, New York</li> </ul>	Completed	Co-Chair Sam Vilisoni attended this meeting soon after the IDA meeting. PDF covered his accommodation and meals costs as he was already in NY.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Other Relevant meetings</li> </ul>	Ongoing	<p>PDF staff participated at meetings when invitations have been received such as</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Pacific Humanitarian Team (PHT) 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Regional Workshop on Disaster Management from 6 – 10 Dec 2010 at the Holiday Inn Suva</li> <li>Attended and contributes at the women and disaster discussion on 10 November 2010 facilitated by UNOCHA in Suva</li> <li>Attended the AusAID and ACFID workshop on gender equality and violence against women in development on 20 May 2011 in Canberra.</li> <li>Attended and participate at the SPC regional media workshop on MDG on 25<sup>th</sup> August 2010.</li> </ul>
1.3	Ensure that PDF collates information on the needs of persons with disability in the region and researches targeted areas as identified by PDF and members.		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Update regional database on DPOs</li> </ul>	Ongoing	Continuation of updating our database as information comes to hand for new members and change of contact address for existing members.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conduct research with APIDS on <i>What is an effective and efficient DPO?</i></li> </ul>	In progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PDF &amp; APIDS have started the research and have worked with 3 countries. After piloting the researching Fiji in February,</li> </ul>



No	Activities	Status	Comments
			<p>the research team moved on to Cook Islands in March and Samoa in May. Funded by AusAID under a different funding agreement.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reports posted on PDF and APIDS websites.</li> </ul>
1.4	Engage with members to ensure that PDF is responsive to their concerns in it presentational activities		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seek accreditation with PIFS on targeted PIF meetings (TBC)</li> </ul>	-	Not pursued in this period.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue advocacy work with development partners</li> </ul>	Ongoing	Met with UNDP Pacific Centre and EU for disability entry points in current programmes in the Pacific, e.g. MDG reporting.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Liaise with Oceania Olympic Committee and Oceania Paralympic Committee on inclusion of disability sports in the next Pacific Games, New Caledonia (2011)</li> </ul>	Completed	Disability sports included in 2011 Pacific Games in New Caledonia
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Apply for Consultative status with UNECOSOC</li> </ul>	Completed	Awaiting outcome of application submitted in June 2011
1.5	Ensure that PDF has a sustainable funding plan		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participate in Evaluation of PDF program by NZAID/AusAID</li> </ul>	Completed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lea Shaw as consultant conducted an evaluation of PDF and spent a week meeting with staff of PDF, staff of Te Toa Matao, DPO from Kiribati and DPO from Cook Islands and spent time meeting with PDF members at PDF Council meeting in NZ in April.</li> <li>• A draft report was produced and presented to NZAID. PDF was given the opportunity to comment on the report and the final report was presented to NZAID and then to PDF.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Negotiate with NZAID and AusAID for the next multiyear Grant Funding Arrangement</li> </ul>	In Progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2011-12 funding from AusAID approved but NZAID withdrew its funding support to PDF preventing any further negotiation on the multiyear tripartite funding arrangement beyond June 2011.</li> <li>• PDF 2011-16 Strategic Plan &amp; M&amp;E framework to be completed in November 2011 to guide negotiation of future partnership with AusAID.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Additional funding opportunities sought to partly or fully fund PDF</li> </ul>	Completed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Additional funding sourced from</li> </ul>

No	Activities	Status	Comments
	approved projects		AusAID/ISSS, NZ Participation Fund & Global Fund for Women to cover 2011 PDF Conference and meetings in Auckland. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>AusAID funding approved for DPO capacity development project providing core funding support to 5 national DPOs</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Submit 2009-2010 Annual Progress Report to NZAID and AusAID</li> </ul>	Completed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PDF final project report for 2007-2011 submitted to NZAID.</li> <li>DPO capacity development project progress report submitted to AusAID</li> </ul>
<b><u>Objective 2</u></b> To build and strengthen the capacity of NDPOs in the region.			
2.1	Strengthen the leadership of NDPOs to be strong disability rights advocates in relation to the Pacific Plan, CRPD, BMF and the MDGs		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue dialogue with AusAID, member NDPOs, NZAID and other stakeholders to implement DPO Capacity Development Project</li> </ul>	Completed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Capacity development project approved for 5 NDPOs in Fiji, Kiribati, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu and Vanuatu for 12 months.</li> <li>Finalise MOU with the 5 NDPOs</li> <li>In-country monitoring visits to these DPOs conducted by DPO Development Officer.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Collaborate with Australian Human Rights Commission to conduct human rights, advocacy and leadership training in 2 PDF member countries and source AusAID funding to extend similar training in 6 remaining PICs not covered in the first round</li> </ul>	Completed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PDF AHRC Training held for PNG in July 2010, Tonga in September 2010 and Nauru in February 2011 completing 10 Pacific Island countries.</li> <li>Submitted proposal through Australia Human Rights Commission for further funding from AusAID to support second phase of this project but was declined.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Organize a Regional Training on CRPD, BMF, MDG, Pacific Plan, ILO 159, Good Governance and Leadership.</li> </ul>	Completed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Topics included in PDF in-country and regional training as well as 2011 conference.</li> <li>Held positive discussion with ILO disability representative to convene a Regional workshop on employment opportunities for PWDs.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support Disability Rights Fund to implement each programs to 5 DRF</li> </ul>	Completed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to support NDPOs to implement</li> </ul>

No	Activities	Status	Comments
	grantees in the Pacific		<p>their DRF activities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supported NDPOs from Tuvalu, Vanuatu and Fiji to submit DRF applications.</li> <li>PDF CEO consulted by DRF Pacific representative on effective grant making in the Pacific.</li> </ul>
2.2	Support the establishment of NDPOs in Pacific countries and territories where none exist and encourage them to become members of PDF.		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Target: Marshall Islands &amp; Niue.</li> </ul>	Partially completed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DPO established in Niue in May and formalized in August.</li> <li>No positive feedback from key contact in Marshall Islands.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify Focal points in American Samoa, Guam, Northern Marianas Islands and Pitcairn and Tokelau.</li> </ul>	Partially completed	Focal points established in American Samoa, Guam and CNMI.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide information about PDF to the above focal points.</li> </ul>	Completed	Key contacts included in PDF email lists
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to encourage more membership from PDF member countries.</li> </ul>	Ongoing	Increasing profile of the PDF has resulted in new members.
2.3	Coordinate and support the mutual exchange of information, ideas and experiences among NDPOs in the region		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Organize 2nd Pacific Disability Conference during General Meeting. (Venue Waipuna Hotel Auckland New Zealand)</li> </ul>	Completed	PDF conference successfully completed with the outcomes document distributed to all participants and uploaded on PDF website. Refer to Objective 1.2
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Utilize quarterly newsletter, website, list serves for sharing and exchanging of relevant information</li> </ul>	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>List serve updated as news or article comes to hand. A new host for PDF list serves secured in Fiji – Internet Fiji, (<a href="mailto:pdflist@lists.pacificdisability.org">pdflist@lists.pacificdisability.org</a>)</li> <li>Produced Pasifika Disability Newsletter Issue 9 (September 2010), Issue 10 (January – March 2011), Issue 11 (April 2011) – Issue 12 (June 2011)</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Coordinate Mentoring/Budding Support within the PDF membership.</li> </ul>	Ongoing	<p>Encourage NDPOs to utilize the budding and mentoring support.</p> <p>A new concept still needs to be understood by DPO's.</p>
2.4	Strengthen and support NDPOs involvement in policy development, disability research & data collection		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Encourage and support NDPOs to be involved in development of relevant national policies in their countries.</li> </ul>	Completed	Members of the Nauru Disabled Peoples Association actively involved in the development of the Nauru national disability policy in February 2011.

No	Activities	Status	Comments
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Involve selected NDPOs to participate in PDF targeted research. (Refer to 1.3)</li> </ul>	In progress	Plan to work with 12 DPOs in building the capacity and understanding their strength through the PDF-APIDS research project.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Encourage research institutions to build the research capacity of member NDPOs involved in joint research activities.</li> </ul>	Ongoing	Issue raised when opportunity presented itself.
2.5	Ensure the appropriate implementation of the Pacific DPO Fund.		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Evaluate 1st round of the Pacific DPO Fund to check for emerging issues in process/support to DPO's or criteria etc.</li> </ul>	Completed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Included in the independent evaluation of the PDF.</li> <li>Guidelines to be reviewed by the Fund Committee.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Begin 2nd round of the Pacific DPO Fund in consultation with the Fund Committee.</li> </ul>	Completed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2nd round advertised 15 October 2010 and applications closed 15 January 2011.</li> <li>A total of 17 applications were received from 9 countries.</li> <li>Fund Committee approved 7 applications, 6 approved in principle and 4 declined. Outcome announced by Fund Committee Chairperson at PDF general meeting 2011.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Audit &amp; Report on Pacific DPO Fund at Council Meeting</li> </ul>	Completed	Included in audit report of PDF 2009-10 accounts presented and adopted at 2011 PDF General Meeting.
<b>Objective 3</b> To increase awareness raising activities in the region on the rights and issues of persons with disabilities by PDF and its members.			
3.1	Promote the utilisation of relevant information, education materials and resources on disability to the Pacific community		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Evaluation of IE Kit from DPOs through feedback</li> </ul>	Completed	Members identified the need for more visual awareness tool like posters to strengthen their awareness raising and advocacy programmes.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Feedback analyzed and IE Kit modified as necessary.</li> </ul>	Completed	Produced awareness posters and distributed to all members during the General Meeting in Auckland.
3.2	Ensure the membership is informed on regional and international initiatives such as the Pacific Plan, MDGs, CRPD, ILO 159, BMF and Biwako Plus Five and how these relate to advocacy work		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dissemination of information via emails, newsletter, website and e-list</li> </ul>	Ongoing	Continue to disseminate relevant information through PDF communication channel.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop communication linkages with regional &amp; international development partners &amp; NGOs to better inform members.</li> </ul>	Ongoing	All new contact from Regional or International Development partners or NGOs information is updated for continuous communication

No	Activities	Status	Comments
			through the PDF ListServ and other PDF communications.
<b>Objective 4</b> To increase the knowledge and skills of women and girls with disabilities to play leadership roles at local, national, regional and international levels.			
4.1.	Ensure PDF supports the inclusion of gender equality in all aspects of its work.		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increase use of gender-inclusive language in spoken &amp; written context including presentation &amp; publications.</li> </ul>	Ongoing	Issues addressed and included with more experience.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintain WWD E-list and ongoing consultation with Women's Committee</li> </ul>	Ongoing	Updated on a daily basis as women issues or articles come into hand via email or press release.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support NDPO to implement recommendations of the finding of UNDP Pacific Report on the status of women and girls with disabilities in the Pacific to inform and improve PDF policies, plans and programmed.</li> </ul>	Completed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Matter addressed by the PDF Women's Committee and member DPOs.</li> <li>Research study on situation analysis on women and girls with disabilities in the Solomon Islands by UNFPA was completed on 30th November 2010.</li> </ul> <p>Report is yet to be launch by UNFPA Pacific Sub-Regional Office.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Solicit contribution of Women's Committee on the development of the new PDF Strategic Plan.</li> </ul>	Completed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PDF Women committee members discussed the strategic plan during the Leadership meeting in November 2010. Update provided to the WWD committee through teleconference in January 2011.</li> <li>PDF biennial Regional WWD Forum in Auckland, April 2011 discussed the new strategic plan for additional input for the final draft.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strengthen linkages with regional &amp; international network of women.</li> </ul>	Completed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Meeting with UN WOMEN Pacific Regional Office team on 23 March 2011 to strengthen linkages between regional networks of women to addressed issues on women with disabilities in the Pacific.</li> <li>Attended and contribute to the Pacific UNITE Campaign Consultation on 31 March 2011 on the elimination of violence against women.</li> <li>Assist NDPO youth to participate at international day celebration on 12</li> </ul>

No	Activities	Status	Comments
			<p>August 2010.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Attended and contribute on the review of the SPC Youth and Agriculture Strategy 2011-2015 Consultation on 8th July 2010.</li> </ul>
4.2	Build an understanding of how the Pacific Plan, Beijing/ Pacific Platform for Action, BMF, CRPD, CRC, CEDAW and MDGs can promote the rights of women and girls with disabilities among PDF members		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Include sessions on above Conventions, framework and plans as part of the PDF training.</li> </ul>	Completed	Topics covered in PDF training programmes
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dissemination of information to national DPOs and WWD groups.</li> </ul>	Completed	Relevant information posted on PDF and WWD e-lists
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organize Regional WWD Forum as part of the Regional Disability Conference.</li> </ul>	Completed	Conducted on 4 April 2011 as part of the PDF biennial conference in Auckland.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organize a national WWD Forum in Tonga in partnership with the Tongan NDPO (NATA).</li> </ul>	Completed	The WWD Women's Forum was successful held in partnership with NATA with report and action plan presented to WWD Committee. A total of 20 participants attended the forum.
4.3	Support the development of WWD groups within each NDPO		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with member NDPOs without WWD groups to establish such groups – Nauru, New Caledonia, PNG &amp; Tuvalu.</li> </ul>	Completed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assisted NATA on the establishment of their women's committee in September 2010</li> <li>• Assisted Nauru WWD group to register with the Ministry of Women's Affairs in March 2011</li> <li>• Provided support to Fusi Alofa WWD group to register with the Ministry of Women's Affairs</li> <li>• Establish a youth group/committee with Fusi Alofa in March 2011</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide technical assistance and advice to WWD groups upon request.</li> </ul>	Completed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provided support to Nauru WWD Committee to apply for funding with UNESCO for small project</li> <li>• Provided support to Fiji WWD Committee during the 2011 international women's day celebration</li> <li>• Provided support to Fiji WWD Committee to apply for the Pacific Trust Fund 2011 on the elimination on violence against women with disabilities</li> </ul>

No	Activities	Status	Comments
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Organize Women's Committee teleconference every 2 month</li> </ul>	Completed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>WWD Committee teleconference: 6 July, 12 Oct 2010. 18 Jan and 10 May 2011.</li> <li>PDF Gender/Youth Officer provided reports and administrative support to WWD meetings.</li> </ul>
<b>Objective 5</b> To promote the inclusion of disability rights and issues in the plans and policies of governments, development partners and civil society organisations (CSOs) in the region.			
5.1	Support for the development of disability inclusive and disability specific plans, policies and legislation in Pacific Island countries.		
	Work with PIFS/ UNESCAP to:		
	Support completion of National Disability Policies in Kiribati and Niue	Ongoing	Kiribati policy with responsible Ministry and Niue policy to be finalized in August 2011
	Develop National Disability Policies in Tonga, Nauru and Tuvalu	In progress	1st draft of Nauru policy completed in February 2011. Request yet to be received from Tonga and Tuvalu
	Support the development of the action plan and implementation of the Pacific Regional Disability Strategy.	Completed	CEO represented the PDF at PIFS Informal Working Group on Disability to support PRSD implementation
5.2	Support the implementation and monitoring of Pacific Plan, BMF, Biwako Plus Five and the CRPD in the Pacific		
	Ongoing engagement with PIFS, UNESCAP, OHCHR, UNDP, APF, IDA, APCD etc. to support the efforts of NDPOs and their governments.	Ongoing	Worked closely with PIFS & UNESCAP Pacific Office to support such initiatives
	Feedback from NDPOs at General Meeting 2011 on the implementation and monitoring mechanism of the above.	Completed	Updates received from member DPOs during PDF biennial conference in Auckland
5.3	Work in partnerships with PIFS, UN agencies, development partners, churches regional CSOs and service providers on issues and concerns of persons with disabilities		
	Promote the utilization of the disability curriculum in theological schools in the Pacific.	In progress	Curriculum to be finalized in July 2011
	Promote disability inclusive approach in the activities of the PRNGO Alliance and other stakeholders.	Ongoing	Disability inclusive development promoted to all PDF partners

## 2. ASSESSMENT TO WHICH THE OBJECTIVES OF THE PDF 2007-11 Strategic Plan and PDF 2010-11 Annual Work Plan are being met

Objective 1: To develop a responsive Regional organisation with requisite resources and financial stability to articulate and pursue the concerns of persons with disabilities in the Pacific Region.

### 1.1 Strengthen the organisational capacity of PDF:

Weekly leadership and monthly staff meetings were held from July 2010 to June 2011 and each staff provided progress report on his/her individual work plan developed for the new financial year during these meetings. The staff also assessed their individual work plan in relation to progress made against the PDF 2010 - 11 Annual Work Plan. The staff also had their quarterly professional development sessions in the year focusing on time management, reviewing the PDF Employee Handbook and the PDF Health and Safety Handbook, and better understanding of the PDF monitoring and evaluation framework. These handbooks were later approved by the Executive Committee to provide policy guidelines for the organisation in relation to its human resources. The staff took the opportunity to undertake various skills training as part of their workforce development, e.g learning sign languages, IT classes, etc. The CEO had a three-week professional development in Australia between 25 November to 17 December 2010 funded by AusAID. The programme included a week long intensive leadership course for senior executives offered through the Mt Eliza Business School in Melbourne. This activity provided the CEO with valuable opportunity to learn more about leadership, review personal and professional goals, and pursue new partnerships for the PDF with potential international organisations based in Australia. The Programme Manager, Ms. Margaret Eastgate resigned from her position on 26 August 2010 leaving a vacuum in the Programme Team leadership. A new Programme Manager, Mr. Katabwena Tawaka was later recruited and assumed his position at the PDF Secretariat in December 2010. Mr. Tawaka brought with him a wealth of experience and skills from his previous employment with PIANGO as Programme Manager (Information Sharing) between 2007 and 2010, and more recently with the Ministry of Health. The employment contracts for the CEO and 7 other staff of the PDF expired in June 2011 in line with the expiration of the grant funding agreement between the PDF and NZAID. Thankfully, the PDF Board agreed at their meeting in May to extend the CEO's employment contracts for a further 12 months to reflect new development with AusAID for a possible multi-year funding replacing NZAID as the major donor to the PDF. The CEO in turn renewed the employment contract of the remaining 7 staff of the PDF for a similar period, 12 months for the same reason cited earlier.

A strategic planning meeting was held in Nadi, Fiji between 11-13 November 2010 where a draft framework for the PDF 2011 - 2016 Strategic Plan was developed. Representatives from PDF member DPOs, Executive Committee and staff were part of this activity facilitated by Ms. Sarah Dyer, an independent consultant from Australia with financial assistance from AusAID. The staff held their annual retreat from 06-08 January 2011 in Deuba outside Suva. The progress made on the first six months of the financial year were reviewed, and plans for the remaining six months reassessed to ensure that individual work plans were on target. Lessons on leadership, personal management, effective planning and disability awareness were part of the retreat programme. The CEO also shared some of the lessons he learned about leadership during his professional development in Australia at the staff retreat. At this same event, the staff also did more work on the 2011-2016 PDF Strategic Plan framework produced at the Nadi meeting cited earlier and came up with the first draft of the document which was later presented at the Executive Committee meeting in February 2011. This same document was also circulated to the PDF members and stakeholders to solicit their input towards the final draft for presentation and discussion by the PDF membership at the PDF 2011 General Meeting in Auckland.

### 1.2 Ensure that the PDF is an effective and efficient organisation representative of National Disabled Peoples Organisations (NDPOs) and its members in the Pacific both regionally and internationally:

The Executive Committee accepted at its July 2010 meeting the bid by Vision Pacific Charitable Trust to host the 2011 PDF General/Council Meetings and 2<sup>nd</sup> biennial Pacific Regional Conference on Disability in Auckland, New Zealand from 4-7 April 2011. The CEO visited Auckland in September and October 2010 to firm up arrangements for this regional event and a host organising committee was established comprising of representatives from the five member DPOs of PDF in New Zealand namely Akamarama Advocacy Inc., Association of Blind Citizens New Zealand, Deaf Aotearoa, DPA New Zealand and Vision Pacific Charitable



Trust. This committee was chaired by Mr. Latoa Halatau of Vision Pacific. Notices and updates on this biennial regional event were posted on the PDF discussion list with the closing date of 24 January 2011 and later extended to 21 February 2011. The call to the members of the PDF for proposed amendments to the PDF Constitution was put out electronically on 04 January 2011 with the deadline of 07 February 2011 to satisfy relevant clause in the PDF Constitution. The programme and budget were also presented to, and approved by the Executive Committee. To meet the overall budget for this regional event which exceeded the approved 2010-11 budget allocation of FJ\$85,000, PDF submitted funding proposals to the Global Fund for Women (GFW), NZAID Pacific Islands Participation Fund and AusAID International Seminar Support Scheme (ISSS) which provided the following grants:

- GFW – USD\$10,000.00
- NZAID Participation Fund – NZD\$16,989.00
- AusAID ISSS – AUD\$41,889.00

A total of FJ\$184,800.00 was raised for this biennial conference inclusive of the allocation within the PDF budget and satisfactorily met the conference expenses. The host organising committee in New Zealand have provided valuable support to the Secretariat and also secured funding assistance amounting to NZ\$13,800.00 from various sources in New Zealand to support specific conference activities like welcome cocktail, equipment hire, sign language interpretation and local transportation for overseas delegates. About 130 participants and their personal assistants from 16 Pacific Island countries and territory (Australia, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu as well as Thailand attended this Pacific Regional Conference on Disability. A lot of positive feedback was received from participants on the four-day programme, and the invaluable support of the PDF Secretariat staff and New Zealand Host Committee must be applauded. Changes to the governance structure of the PDF along with other constitutional amendments approved at the 2011 General Meeting have been incorporated into the business and affairs of the PDF moving forward. Key changes include the provision of corporate and life members in the PDF membership categories, restructuring of the composition of the Executive Committee which has now become the Board, election of Board members serving on a staggered rotation of 2 years, and the annual meetings of members to now take place every two years as the General Forum of members. The regional conference was officially opened by the Hon. Tariana Turia, Minister for Disability Issues in New Zealand and closed by the Hon. Richard Marles, Australia's Parliamentary Secretary for Pacific Island Affairs.

The following regional and international meetings and conferences were attended by the PDF representatives during the period under review.

- AusAID Disability Reference Group Meeting – 9-12 August 2010 – Phnom Penh, Cambodia. Attended by CEO as a member of the DRG. Funded by AusAID.
- 11<sup>th</sup> Pacific Triennial for Pacific Women – 16-20 August 2010 – Noumea, New Caledonia. Attended by the PDF Gender&&Youth Officer, Ms. Naomi Navoce. Funded by PDF 2010-11 budget allocation.
- 63<sup>rd</sup> UNDP NGO Forum – 30 August-01 September 2010 – Melbourne, Australia. Attended by CEO and Programme Manager who also presented papers on disability in the Pacific and work of the PDF. Sponsored by AusAID (CEO) and UNDP (Programme Manager).
- International Disability Alliance (IDA) Council Meeting – 29-30 August 2010 – New York, USA. Attended by Co-Chair Sam Vilsoni as PDF representative to IDA. Funded by IDA.
- Third Session of the Conference of State Parties to the UNCPRD – 1-3 September 2010 – New York, USA. Funded by PDF unspent funds from 2009-10 budget approved by NZAID. Co-Chair Sam was already in New York for the IDA meeting and stayed on to attend this UN event for exposure and experience to benefit PDF activities and membership.
- Australia Disability and Development Consortium (ADDC) Conference – 15-17 September 2010 – Darwin, Australia. Attended by CEO, Information Officer, DPO Development Officer and Gender&Youth Officer from PDF and member DPOs from Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, PNG, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu. The CEO and participants from Fiji, Kiribati, PNG, Samoa, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu presented papers and facilitators during workshop and plenary sessions. AusAID was the main sponsor for these participants.
- PacINET Annual Conference – 13-17 September 2010 – Port Vila, Vanuatu. Attended by Finance&Office Manager, Mr. Bimal Narayan and representative from United Blind Persons of Fiji, Mr. Fuata Faktaufon. Funded by AusAID.

- Asia/Pacific Disability Forum (APDF) 4<sup>th</sup> General Assembly – 17-18 October 2010 – Bangkok, Thailand. Attended by Co-Chair Sam Vilsoni and CEO. Funded by PDF 2009-10-11 budget allocation. This activity is held every two years and the PDF Co-Chair is one of three Vice-Chairs of APDF. CEO presented paper on disability initiatives in the Pacific.
- UNESCAP Committee on Social Development, Second Session – 19-21 October 2010 – Bangkok, Thailand. Attended by Co-Chair Sam Vilsoni and CEO. Their participation was funded under the PDF 2009-10-11 budget allocation. The meeting discussed the process towards the conclusion of the second Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons 2003-2012, and to consider the way forward for ESCAP member States after the conclusion of the current Decade. The report from this meeting would be submitted to the Commission, at its sixty-seventh session in April 2011, for a final decision on whether to proclaim a new decade for Asia and the Pacific Region for the period 2013-2022.
- The ICEVI Pacific and WBU EFA-VI Pacific Forum held in Sydney, Australia from 13-14 January 2011 was well attended by about 20 participants from 10 Pacific Island countries, including representatives from member DPOs. These participants also attended the biennial conference of the South Pacific Educators in Vision Impairment (SPEVI) also held in Sydney from 17-21 January 2011. We acknowledge the support of Ms. Frances Gentle from ICEVI Pacific, Dr. Kevin Murfitt from WBU Pacific/Oceania and Dr. Paul Pagliano from SPEVI for their leadership and support on these events. The participants discussed effective strategies on inclusive education for students with vision impairment. The CEO also presented a paper on “Disability in the Pacific” during the SPEVI biennial conference.
- The CEO in his voluntary position as Volunteer Coordinator for the World Council of Churches disability programme, Ecumenical Disability Advocates Network (EDAN) for the Pacific Region along with the Chairperson of NATA, Mr. Rhema Masser, attended the EDAN Regional Coordinators’ meeting in Kingston, Jamaica between 14-16 May 2011. Their participation costs were met by EDAN.

The CEO was also invited by the AusAID Disability Inclusive Development section in Canberra to be a panel member at the Leaders Forum they organised in February 2011 to help sensitise AusAID officials on leadership, disability inclusive development practice, CRPD and the PRSD. The CEO also held meetings with senior AusAID officials, Parliamentary Secretary for Pacific Island Affairs, Hon. Richard Marles MP, and the AusAID DID section on future funding support to the PDF beyond June 2011. These series of meetings proved very successful and informative giving the PDF some clear direction on the expectations of AusAID on this ongoing partnership. Further, the presence of Hon. Richard Marles at the closing ceremony of the PDF biennial conference in Auckland in April 2011 was indeed a testament of that support. Effective and meaningful partnerships with the World Health Organisation (WHO) Pacific Office, CBM Australia, CBM New Zealand and Oxfam International Australia were also explored on how disability service provision in the Pacific could be improved in collaboration with DPOs and disability NGOs. Whilst good progress has been achieved with CBM Australia and CBM New Zealand, the others have remained disengaged.

### 1.3 **Ensure that PDF collates information on the needs of persons with disability in the region and researches targeted areas as identified by PDF and members:**

The funding proposal for the PDF-APIDS (Australia Pacific Islands Disability Support) joint research project on “Capacity Development for Effective and Efficient DPOs in Pacific Island Countries” was initially submitted to AusAID in July 2010 and again in October 2010 after comments from AusAID was incorporated and proposal further refined. The overall development aim for the research is “to support the quality and nature of capacity development processes within Pacific disabled people’s organizations.” The funding proposal was finally approved by AusAID and relevant contract documentation signed off on 28 January 2011. The research project cost amounted to AUD\$282,167.00 (FJ\$470,278.00) and the project partners planned to facilitate research processes in each PDF member country over an 18 month period, providing opportunities for all 12 member DPOs to:

- reflect on and share what they know already about capacity and capacity development,
- learn about what works well and why,
- develop new ideas and ways of working,
- share their experiences with others, and
- be in a stronger position to negotiate with their own members and development partners about how to strengthen their capacity in the future.

The actual research commenced in February 2011 in Fiji and to be completed in June 2012. The research covers all 12 country DPO members of PDF in the Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu. All DPOs have been requested to nominate a Research Assistant to be involved in this project and provide his/her DPO with some research capacity upon the completion of this activity. Fiji was the first country where this research was conducted in February 2011, followed by the Cook Islands in March and Samoa in May 2011. Research reports for these three countries were finalized by the research team and uploaded in both the PDF and APIDS websites. In all countries, member DPOs played key role in the implementation of this research activity by providing Research Assistants and organize meetings, venue and catering, language translation and other logistics. The Research Advisory Group comprised of Frederick Miller from PIFS, Kirsty Thompson from CBM Australia and Alastair Wilkinson played a vital role in this project. The research process and a series of papers produced by the joint Pacific/Australian research team will contribute to a broader understanding about capacity development processes relevant to Pacific DPOs.

#### **1.4 Ensure that the PDF has a sustainable funding plan:**

The finalisation of the PDF 2010-11 annual work plan and budget took place in September and funding contracts with the respective donor agencies occurred in September as well. Tranche payment towards the PDF 2010-11 financial year was received from NZIDG on 21 September 2010 amounting to FJ\$424,038.00 and from AusAID, FJ\$598,737.63 was received on 18 October 2010. The PDF Secretariat staff also provided technical assistance to member DPOs from FSM, Fiji and Tuvalu on their funding applications to the Disability Rights Fund (DRF) second grant making round to the Pacific advertised on 8 July 2010 and closed on 19 August 2010. Information on this particular funding window was advertised on the PDF e-list and member DPOs were encouraged to take full advantage of this opportunity.

The end of project evaluation jointly undertaken by NZAID and AusAID in partnership with the PDF was finally set in motion by NZAID in March 2011. A contributing factor to this delay was the resignation of Ms. Megan McCoy in August 2010 who was the NZAID official designated to work with PDF. The PDF CEO was asked by NZAID to be part of the selection panel to appoint the independent evaluator. Ms. Lea Shaw, an independent consultant based in Brisbane, Australia was eventually contracted by NZAID in early March 2011 for this assignment which was jointly managed by the NZAID and PDF. Unfortunately, the joint NZAID-PDF-AusAID evaluation team had to be abandoned as AusAID was unable to commit personnel into this activity, but remained supportive and engaged in the process. A draft of the evaluation report were sent to the PDF by NZAID in April 2011 and the PDF Co-Chairpersons as well as the CEO commented on the document before it was finalised.

Discussions of the funding partnership between the PDF and its partners (AusAID and NZAID) beyond 30 June 2011 gained momentum in April 2011 with a particular focus on securing funding from AusAID for the new financial year (July 2011-June 2012) whilst a few issues had to be finalised or resolved. AusAID has offered to provide around AUD\$700,000.00 to the PDF for the next financial year to enable the organisation to finalise its 2011-2016 strategic plan, finalise its monitoring and evaluation framework with its membership, and learn from the New Zealand Aid Programme its funding relationship with the PDF after the completion of the evaluation. The PDF also submitted the same proposal to NZAID requesting for a one-year funding to compliment AusAID's contribution and to finance the 2011-2012 annual work plan. The actual funding partnership between the PDF and its partners would be negotiated in the 2011-12 financial year.

Unfortunately, NZAID decided to withdraw its funding support to the PDF at the end of its 2007-2011 Grant Funding Arrangement (GFA) on 30 June 2011. This decision by NZAID was not anticipated by the PDF at the back of a very positive independent evaluation conducted by NZAID between March and April 2011. However, the Government of Australia through AusAID was able to revise and increase its funding support in June 2011 to the PDF for the 2011-12 financial year to cover for the level of funding PDF was expecting to receive from NZAID. Thus, AusAID became the single and major funding partner to the PDF taking over from NZAID which has supported the PDF since 01 July 2007.

### **Objective 2: To build and strengthen the capacity of NDPOs in the region.**

#### **2.1 Strengthen the leadership of NDPOs to be strong disability rights advocates in relation to the Pacific Plan, CRPD, BMF and the MDGs:**

The CEO attended the first ever Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) national Disability Forum held in Chuuk, FSM from 23-26 August 2010 to establish a national DPO for the country. This forum also focused on

the CRPD and their national disability policy. Mr. Alastair Wilkinson from UNESCAP, Mr. Frederick Miller from PIFS and Mr. Paul Deany from DRF were other resource persons at this inaugural event for FSM. The final two of the nine in-country human rights training jointly conducted by the Australia Human Rights Commission (AHRC), PDF, Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS), UNESCAP and SPC/RRRT were held in Papua New Guinea from 21-23 July 2010 and in Tonga from 29 September to 1 October 2010. The PDF CEO and DPO Development Officer along with Ms. Cristina Ricci from AHRC, Mr. Frederick Miller from PIFS and representatives from PWD Australia and SPC/Regional Rights Resource Team were resource persons at the in-country training. The training was held over 3 days and attended by 12 participants from the national DPO and 3 from various Government Departments. The national DPO in each country served as the host organization and local organizer. The balance of funds from this in-country human rights training in 9 Pacific Island countries was utilised for a similar training in Nauru February 2011 upon the approval of AusAID. The 3-day training began on Monday, 28 February and concluded on Wednesday, 02 March 2011. This training was followed by a two-day disability policy consultation and a one-day DPO capacity building activities specifically for the Nauru Disabled Peoples Association, the national DPO there. Some positive outcomes of this week long training include the revival of the NDPA, acquisition of an office space generously donated by the family of one of the NDPA members, and development of an action plan for the Executive Committee. The CEO also spent a day with Te Toa Matoa in Kiribati after returning from the week long training in Nauru to discuss membership growth and leadership challenge issues with the Executive Committee and members of the organisation there. The Programme Manager provided technical assistance to Te Toa Matoa in the development of their strategic plan, annual budget and work plan. He also spent some time with the Te Toa Matoa office staff on the proper running of the office. Unfortunately, the funding application submitted by AHRC for the second phase of this training was not approved by AusAID.

The Commonwealth Foundation awarded a project to the UKDPC in the United Kingdom to provide capacity building to the 8 Commonwealth Pacific Island countries (Kiribati, Nauru, PNG, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu) around the ratification and implementation of the CRPD. The PDF Secretariat managed to convince UKDPC that it should work through the PDF for such initiative and member DPOs in these 8 countries were also informed about this position. The DPO Development Officer, Ms. Angeline Chand represented the PDF at this CRPD workshop for the Commonwealth Pacific countries which was held in Port Moresby, PNG from 24-29 January 2011 and jointly organised by the UKDPC, PNGADP and PDF with funding made available by the Commonwealth Foundation. A total of 26 participants from Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu attended this training. The PDF Secretariat also played a supportive role to the DRF Programme Officer for Asia/Pacific, Mr. Paul Deany based in Melbourne, Australia to ensure that the successful grantees from the Pacific for the 2010 grant making round, which are all members of the PDF were supported when required. This support included the participation of these grantees at the DRF Convening held in Auckland in April 2011 soon after the PDF biennial conference.

The "Initial Capacity Development for DPOs in the Pacific" project funded by AusAID was also extended to the end of the 2010-11 financial year and the total number of national DPOs supported through core funding assistance increased from four to five. Te Toa Matoa of Kiribati joined DPA Vanuatu, FAA Tuvalu, Fiji Disabled People's Association and PWD Solomon Islands which all received core funding support to be able to effectively implement their plans and activities. The DPO Development Officer conducted monitoring visits to these DPOs to ensure that activities identified and agreed in the MoU between these dPOs and PDF were being properly and successfully implemented. She was also able to provide relevant information, guidance and skills training to these DPOs during such visits.

## **2.2 Support the establishment of NDPOs in Pacific countries and territories where none exist and encourage them to become members of PDF:**

Useful contacts were established with the Marshall Islands through the Marshall Islands Council of NGOs which is supporting the establishment of a national DPO in that country. However, this activity could not be pursued in this period as key contact people in Marshall Islands were unable to give this task some priority in their work locally. Key focal points were also established with individuals in American Samoa, Guam, and Northern Marianas with regular communication links now maintained. Despite its small population, Niue was able to establish a national DPO in May 2011 after the PIFS Disability Coordination Officer, Mr Frederick Miller visited this country to work with their Government focal point on disability policy development. This national DPO was formalized in August 2011 after the visit of the PDF Co-Chairperson and CEO to Niue for this purpose. An application for membership was received from the national disabled people's organisation of

Timor Leste (Ra'es Hadomi Timor Oan - RHTO) to become a member of the PDF. RHTO has been established since 2006 and registered as a local NGO since 2008. East Timor is not identified in the PDF Constitution to be classified as a country in the Pacific. A total of 2 full members and 5 associate members were received into the membership of the PDF in this period giving a total of 46 members comprising of 26 full members and 20 associate members in 14 Pacific Island countries and 1 territory (New Caledonia).

### **2.3 Ensure the appropriate implementation of the Pacific DPO Fund:**

The second round of the Pacific DPO Fund was advertised on the PDF e-list on 15 October 2010 and eligible member DPOs were encouraged to send their funding applications to this contestable small grants scheme before the closing date of 14 January 2011. A total of 17 applications from 9 member countries (Cook Islands, Fiji, FSM, Kiribati, Palau, PNG, Samoa, Solomon Islands & Vanuatu) were received by the closing date. The budget allocation was FJ\$108,333.00, and together with the balance from the first round of FJ\$13,930.14, the total funds available for this second round was FJ\$122,263.14. The DPO Fund Committee assessed these applications and reported its decision to the PDF General Meeting in April 2011. Of the 17 applications received, 7 were approved, 4 declined and 6 approved in principle pending receipt of additional information. Funding agreements have been sent to the member DPOs whose applications were approved and those required to provide additional information on their applications were also notified. Total funds utilised at the end of the financial year was around FJ\$96,000.00 for 10 organisations. Two organisations (NOLA Samoa and PNG Blind Union) had not submit their signed funding agreement before funding could be released to their nominated bank accounts, while the third organisation, Cook Islands National Disability Council had not submit their revised proposal. The DPO Fund Committee also held their teleconference meetings throughout the year chaired by Mr. Frederick Miller and attended by Ms. Nelly Caleb from DPA Vanuatu, and Ms. Samantha French from PWD Australia. The DPO Development Officer and CEO attended as ex-officio members. With the alleged misuse by NATA of the DPO fund allocation to them, we have pursued with the legal investigation through our lawyer.

### **Objective 3: To increase awareness raising activities in the region on the rights and issues of persons with disabilities by PDF and its members.**

#### **3.1 Promote the utilisation of relevant information, education materials and resources on disability to the Pacific community:**

The PDF list serves had to be relocated to a Fiji server after the New Zealand host shut down its operation at the end of 2010. Internet Fiji, which is also the internet service provider for our website now hosts five PDF lists:

- PDF List – for general information sharing and discussion among members, partners and interested individuals
- PDF Full Members List - for Full Members information sharing
- PDF Members – for Full and Associate Members information sharing
- PDF Women – for the PDF women's group members information sharing
- PDF Board – for information sharing by the PDF Executive Committee/Board.

The Information Officer continued to upload pertinent issues into the PDF website and e-lists for the benefit of PDF members and stakeholders. The weekly update continued to be posted on the PDF discussion e-list highlighting activities and success stories received from member DPOs. The 9th, 10th, 11th and 12th editions of the PDF quarterly newsletter 'Disability Pasifika' were produced in this financial year and copies distributed to those organisations and individuals in the PDF mailing list. A special newsletter on the 2011 Pacific Regional Conference on Disability was produced in May 2011.

Posters on selected themes to be utilised by the members as information, education and communication materials were produced and distributed to member organisations at the PDF biennial conference in Auckland to support their disability awareness raising campaigns. PDF also worked with the Australia Human Rights Commission to produce a DVD capturing DPO strengthening and good governance sessions presented by the CEO during the in-country training held in the 10 Pacific Island countries. This DVD was distributed at the biennial conference and yet another awareness raising tool for the PDF members.

**Objective 4: To increase the knowledge and skills of women and girls with disabilities to play leadership roles at local, national, regional and international levels.**

**4.1 Ensure PDF supports the inclusion of gender equality in all aspects of its work:**

The PDF programme supporting women with disabilities continues to be served well by the Gender/Youth Officer with the able leadership and guidance of the PDF Women's Committee. The Gender/Youth Officer represented the PDF at the 11th Pacific Triennial for Pacific Women Meeting held in Noumea, New Caledonia in August 2010. The outcome statement of this regional meeting notably included issues concerning women with disabilities. The Gender/Youth Officer attended the Pacific Humanitarian Team 3rd annual regional workshop held in Suva, Fiji from 6-10 December 2010. A direct outcome of her participation is the development of national disaster preparedness in Fiji to include women and persons with disabilities. Ms. Teewata Rokete of Te Toa Matoi in Kiribati has also been nominated by the PDF Women's Committee to serve on the board of the Pacific Gender Climate Coalition. The PDF also collaborated with the UNFPA and PWD Solomon Islands in the conducting of a situational analysis on "Sexual and Reproductive Health Needs of Women Living with a Disability in the Solomon Islands". The second biennial Regional Forum on Women with Disabilities which formed part of the Pacific Regional Conference on Disability held in Auckland in April 2011 was considered a success. Outcomes from this event was incorporated into the final statement of the regional conference. The PDF Women's Committee also held their scheduled meetings by teleconference throughout the year and pertinent information continued to be uploaded in the PDF WWD list for the information of subscribers. The PDF Women's Committee Chairperson, Ms. Savina Nongebatu who was also the PDF Co-Chairperson presented reports from the Women's Committee in PDF Board meetings as it was a standing item in their meeting agenda.

**4.2 Support the development of women with disabilities (WWD) groups within each NDPO:**

The National WWD Forum was held in Nukualofa, Tonga from the 27-28 September 2010 during the PDF/AHRC/PIFS human rights training there, which was attended by a total of 20 participants. The PDF Gender/Youth Officer and the DPO Development Officer facilitated this event which resulted in the formation of a NATA Women's Group. This activity successfully accomplished what was targeted for this objective in this financial year. The Chairperson of the NATA Women's Group also became a member of the PDF Women's Committee.

**Objective 5: Disability rights and issues are included in national and regional plans and policies.**

**5.1 Work in partnerships with PIFS, UN agencies, development partners, churches regional CSOs and service providers on issues and concerns of persons with disabilities:**

The PDF CEO discussed disability policy development with the Tongan Government and DPO representatives during the human rights training in Tonga in September 2010. Similar discussions were held with Government and DPO representatives who attended the human rights training in Nauru in February 2011 which resulted in the development of their draft National Policy on Disability. The CEO has also been part of the informal working group established by the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat to work with Mr. Alastair Wilkinson from UNESCAP Pacific Operation Centre to develop the action plan for the Pacific Regional Strategy on Disability. PDF also attended monthly meetings of the Pacific Regional NGO (PRNGO) Alliance which provided a valuable platform for the mainstreaming of disability concerns into the programmes and services of other Pacific regional NGOs.

The PDF secured funding from AusAID to support a pilot project to be undertaken in Fiji in the 2011-12 financial year in partnership with the Fiji Disabled People's Association. The "Disability Inclusiveness in Disaster and Risk Reduction and Management in Fiji" directly responds to the growing concern regarding the vulnerability of persons with disability before, during and after disasters. The PDF is committed to activating a national disability inclusiveness programme in Fiji in partnership with FDPA and financial support of AusAID to ensure that vulnerable populations in developing countries are able to withstand the deadly impacts of disasters like earthquakes, floods, tsunamis, droughts and cyclones. Realising that such an initiative has not been extensively implemented in Fiji, PDF was responding to the outcome discussion from the Pacific Humanitarian Team (PHT) 3rd Annual Regional Workshop on Disaster Preparedness and discussion with Fiji's National Disaster Management Office (NDMO) and Fiji Red Cross Society in considering a Disability Inclusiveness Disaster Risk Reduction/Management project to be implemented in Fiji. Lessons learned from this pilot project would not only benefit Fiji, but other Pacific Island countries and member DPOs.

The CEO met with representatives from CBM International and Oxfam Australia in December 2010 to explore possible areas of collaboration in the area of disability in the Pacific. Both organisations expressed keen interest to work closely with the PDF, and to explore entry points within their existing programmes for disability inclusive development, and involvement of PDF member DPOs in their country-based projects in the Pacific. Further work on the draft disability curriculum to be taught in Pacific theological schools continued with the South Pacific Association of Theological School (SPATS) and the training-of-trainers (TOT) workshop to finalise this draft curriculum initially scheduled for 1-4 November 2010 was postponed to July 2011. The World Council of Churches (WCC) Ecumenical Disability Advocates Network (EDAN) provided the necessary funding for this activity.

### 3. ISSUES AND EMERGING RISKS AFFECTING THE IMPLEMENTATION:

The following issues and risks have emerged during the course of PDF implementing its Annual Work Plan and engaged in related activities in the 2010-11 financial year.

- 3.1 Changing Funding Priorities of NZAID. As funding priorities and international aid of donor governments are often dictated and influenced by platforms of political party/ies in power, aid-dependent non-governmental organisations like the Pacific Disability Forum are at risk of losing such valuable financial assistance when their programme focus are different from the donor government's funding policies. PDF experienced this situation at the end of the 2010-11 financial year when the Government of New Zealand through NZAID decided to terminate its funding support to the PDF. Similarly, the focus on economic development in the Pacific by donor governments must take an inclusive approach whereby the disability dimension in such development initiatives are not overlooked, but given equal attention.
- 3.2 The capacity of PDF member DPOs to take full advantage of funding opportunities. It was noted that only a few member DPOs applied to the Disability Rights Fund grant making rounds targeting Pacific Island countries and the Pacific DPO Fund during this period. Whilst it is apparent that member DPOs must seize such opportunities in light of their need for financial assistance, the low response rate from member DPOs in the two funding opportunities is of concern to PDF. The reasons given to PDF vary, ranging from staff not having the necessary skills to complete project proposal templates, committee member assigned to this task do not have the time to do it, and internet access unavailable or unreliable. Although some training on this area has been provided, it is clear that more needs to be done to equip member DPOs with appropriate skills and knowledge in proposal and report writing amongst other relevant capacity development activities.
- 3.3 Effective coordination of aid relating to disability in the Pacific. The sudden and increased attention of development partners on disability development in the Pacific must be managed properly and transparently by the PDF, and in close collaboration with its funding partners. The effective and efficient coordination of various funding opportunities targeting DPOs in the Pacific such as DRF, USAID, AusAID, APIDS, PDF Pacific DPO Fund, etc. must be worked out. Of significant importance in this deliberation is the role PDF can and will play in this regard. Regular communication and ongoing discussions among PDF, AusAID and their partners in this instance will ensure that duplication of services and wastage of resources are minimized.
- 3.4 How DPOs in the Pacific can be empowered so that they are not simply used to legitimise research proposals or funding applications submitted by a second party to donor and development partners. PDF has seen in the recent past that some member DPOs have been taken advantaged of, and in some instances, used, by some overseas organisations and institutions to strengthen their funding applications, especially when the research grant identifies disability or the Pacific region as useful qualification criteria.

#### 4. CONCLUSION

The PDF is in a totally different environment now compared to when it was first established way back in December 2002 and July 2004, as well as entered into partnership with NZAID in early 2006. Its membership has tripled, staff increased from 1 to 8, AusAID has joined NZAID as funding partners in 2009, and annual funding increased from around FJD\$200,000.00 in 2006 to just under FJD1.5 million this current financial year. The governance structure of the PDF has been modernized as a result of constitutional amendments adopted at the 2011 PDF General Meeting in Auckland which was part of the most successful biennial conference PDF has organised. To this end, the PDF is indebted to both the Governments of New Zealand and Australia through NZAID and AusAID respectively for their financial assistance in the 2010-11 financial year which have contributed significantly to where PDF is at today. The PDF looks forward to finalizing its 2011-2016 Strategic Plan and the Monitoring and Evaluation Framework in the new financial year to guide its direction, programmes and activities in the next five years.