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Supporting Job Creation in Solomon Islands

ILO hands over "My Guide to Employment" books to Ministry of Education. The books were handed over after the successful completion of two Career Counselling Training of Trainers workshops with secondary school teachers in Solomon Islands. The first training took place in Honiara and the other in Malaita. Mr. Satoshi Sasaki hands over "My Guide to Employment" books to Mr. Franco Rodie Permanent Secretary Ministry of Education, Solomon Islands.

Message from Mr. Satoshi Sasaki, Decent Work Specialist (Officer in Charge)

Greetings from the Suva ILO Office to all the ILO Pacific Island Countries Constituents, Social Partners, Donors, Ministries, NGO's and civil society who have worked tirelessly with us throughout the year to achieve many significant results.

It's that time of the year again to publish the last edition of the ILO Pacific News 2015 and it is a great honor for me to highlight some accomplishments in the Pacific; since taking up the role of Officer-in-Charge.

I am pleased to advise that former ILO Suva Director, Mr David Lamotte, has been appointed to the position of Deputy Regional Director of the ILOs Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific.

Since David's departure for the ILO Bangkok earlier in the year, I have had the challenge of maintaining his momentum to provide

support for the 10 Pacific Island member countries; consolidating priorities in drawing up a work plan for 2016-17.

Work in this part of the region has progressed well with the different Member countries this biennium; i.e. successful completion of the UN Human Security Trust Fund in the Solomon Islands, launching of the Samoa National Action Plan on Youth Employment, finalising new labour law in Kiribati, cyclone recovery work in Vanuatu, finalising Labour Migration policies development in Kiribati and Tuvalu, Cook Islands' accession to the ILO membership, and the advancement of child labour protection in Fiji. Many other activities may not be mentioned here, but are all equally important.

These set a good benchmark to enhance further collaboration for the next biennium. I look forward to ensuring our

office continues towards the Sustainable Development Goals established in September 2015 and the UN Development Assistance Framework in PNG and the Pacific.

It has been a delightful experience working with you all, providing support and learning from your participant and inputs in all our joint efforts. Lastly, my office remains available to provide assistance upon request.

With sincere appreciation for all the work we've achieved, I wish you happiness, safety and peace on this holiday season from all the Staff of the ILO Pacific Island Countries in Suva, Papua New Guinea and Samoa.

Satoshi Sasaki
OIC, ILO Suva

Improving working conditions on fishing vessels in the Pacific



Fisheries and labour officials from the Pacific region.

Ocean fishing is of considerable importance to the Pacific region, not only in terms of the revenue it brings, but also the employment opportunities created for Pacific Island workers. However, it is an industry facing a number of challenges and vulnerabilities.

In November 2015 the ILO Country Office of Pacific Island Countries, with support from the Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) hosted a technical meeting bringing together fisheries and labour officials from the Pacific region. This is the first technical meeting of its kind in the region to specifically focus on strengthening technical dialogue between two key

elements of Government administrations with responsibilities to the sector. Presentations from representatives of the FFA provided an overview of the context in the Pacific Region, the importance of a sustainable industry, and emerging trends. An important element of the Pacific context is the Regional Roadmap for Sustainable Pacific Fisheries agreed by the Fisheries Ministers, and endorsed by the Pacific Heads of State at the Forum Leaders Meeting in Papua New Guinea in October 2015. A key goal of the Roadmap is the creation of 18,000 new jobs in the tuna industry within 10 years. Mr Brandt Wagner (ILO) delivered an overview of the Work in Fishing Convention, 2007

(No.188) and discussed its main principles and provisions as well as ways in which these principles could be given effect through conducting gap analyses, revising domestic legislation, and improving monitoring and enforcement.

Mr Wagner also outlined some of the key lessons that had been learnt in other parts of the world in improving working conditions, including through ratification and standard setting. Some of the lessons learned from these activities include the importance of regulation of private recruitment and placement services, as well as the importance of ensuring that fishers know the content of their work contracts and the availability of complaint mechanisms (particularly for migrant fishers that are often most vulnerable).

The meeting was also an opportunity to discuss some of the key areas of concern to labour and fisheries officials and explore potential pathways and solutions. Labour ministries and fisheries ministries were encouraged to undertake national tripartite discussions on training and supporting workers on fishing vessels including through skills development programmes, institutional capacity strengthening and inter-agency collaboration.

New services help Vanuatu recover from Cyclone Pam

As world leaders discuss climate change in Paris, the ILO is helping Vanuatu to rebuild stronger and greener to better prepare for future storms.

Frank Garae lost his job the day after a Category 5 cyclone struck Vanuatu. The 39-year-old was working in an international five-star resort in Port Vila, the capital and largest city of Vanuatu.

Severe category 5 Tropical Cyclone Pam, which hit on 13 March 2015, caused the worst natural disaster in the history of Vanuatu. The storm brought widespread damage, and resulted in the deaths of about 15 people on the tiny South Pacific island nation.

Employment Services Vanuatu (ESV)

According to ILO analysis, Cyclone Pam affected (directly and indirectly) the livelihoods of about 40,800 households, or 195,000 people – more than half of the country's population of about 250,000. The damage focused on four of the country's six provinces, where a total of 504,050 work days and 1.6 billion Vanuatu vatu (USD 15 million) of personal income were lost. But, less than three months after the Cyclone, the Government of Vanuatu, with the ILO's technical assistance and support, launched Employment Services Vanuatu (ESV). ESV provides services to formal sector employees who are looking for new jobs because of Cyclone Pam, and unemployed young people who want career counselling, training and jobs.

The help on offer includes registration, career counselling, training, referrals and job placements.

On 8 June 2015, day one of registration, an hour before the doors opened, Garae was waiting outside ESV, eager to get in and use the services on offer. "I saw it on the news and said to myself I need to take the initiative and go get registered. Two days later I received a call from the Melanesian Hotel and asked to come for an interview and a few days later I received the good news that I was their new Barman," said Garae.

Better response to future storms

Launched by the Ministry of Internal Affairs, with the Vanuatu Council of Trade Unions (VCTU) and the Vanuatu Chamber

of Commerce and Industry (VCCI), ESV is one of three ILO programmes in Vanuatu established to not only respond to the Cyclone Pam disaster but also to build up local capacity and institutions to allow them to respond better to future disasters.

The other two major programmes are Labour Based Technology (LBT) for Road Construction and Maintenance, and Support and Capacity Building of Workers.

Mr Satoshi Sasaki, the Officer-in-Charge of the ILO Office for the Pacific Island Countries, said the cyclone response initiative was developed using the findings of an ILO-supported assessment on Employment, Livelihoods and Social Protection (ELSP), which was part of the Vanuatu Post Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA), led by the Government of Vanuatu with support from the World Bank, European Union and United Nations. "I am very happy to see that the process is working and government has taken the initiative to further resource and support it," said Sasaki.

To date, 145 people (50 men and 95 women) who were affected by Cyclone Pam have registered, as well as 861 unemployed young people (409 men and 452 women). According to Lionel Kaluat, the Commissioner of Labour, nine private companies and one NGO have already approached ESV, looking to fill more than 20 vacancies. Around 120 job-seekers have been referred for consideration.

"After three months out of a job and no income, I am very happy to get back into the workforce and start earning income to support my family", said Garae, who has two secondary school-age children. Garae is now back in full time employment.



Frank Garae

Three months into his new job, Garae has been using his previous experience at an internationally owned and operated hotel to improve the services for guests in his new locally owned and operated hotel. "I have developed a brand new exciting cocktail menu, which has seen more patrons visit the Oasis Bar. Soon, for the first time in this hotel, we will have a mocktail and shots menu".

Career counselling critical for informed career choices for youths



Youths participate in business training.

A ILO training course was held in August to establish a group of local career counsellors who can train others and provide direct counselling to young people, who want to seek waged and self-employment in Solomon Islands.

A training of trainers on career counselling for youths was held from 12-14 August 2015 in Honiara. The training was delivered by the ILO under its Human Security Project in Solomon Islands. Participants at the training included Youth

at Work staff, teachers from selected schools and young people.

Ms Margaret Qoloni the Under Secretary Administration for the Ministry of Unity, Reconciliation and Peace, stated at the



Solomon Island youth seek career guidance.

opening of the training that the Solomon Islands national government's policy statements clearly establishes that 'reconciliation with all stakeholders is the number one priority of the government' and its development strategy affirmed that 'reconciliation and the associated rehabilitation to support is fundamental to sustained development, peace and human security in the Solomon Islands'.

"Through these kind of approaches we are showcasing our commitments are firm and we are all working towards this priority "she further iterated.

The timing of this workshop also coincided with the International Youth Day which this year focused on "Youth Civic Engagement" - aimed at promoting civic engagement and participation of youth in politics and public life, so that young

people can be empowered and bring a full contribution to society, development and peace.

Mr Harry James, the President of the Honiara Youth Council and member of the Pacific Youth Council and Commonwealth Youth Council also attended the training. In his speech on the first day, he expressed his appreciation for the training.

ILO Programme Officer, Mr Bimlesh Raj said that this initiative falls under the Human security initiative for "tensions" reduction, reconciliation and rehabilitation project in the Solomon Islands which is a joint initiative between the Solomon Islands Government, UNDP, UNICEF, and ILO. He added by saying that this training will lead to more youths being trained and ultimately more youths making informed choices and securing

decent work. The main objective of the training is to train and establish a group of local career counsellors who could train others and provide direct counselling to young people, who want to seek waged and self-employment. The training is supported by the ILO's "My Guide to Employment" resource developed by the ILO in consultation with young people, government officials and private sector and launched in 2013.

"As countries establish and improve on employment services for young people, this training is an important proactive measure for promoting youth unemployment", said Mr Edward Bernard, of the ILO. Similar training has been delivered in Vanuatu and Kiribati and soon in Fiji.

"The training was very useful because it not only did it help me improve my counselling methods but provided me with options on how best I can help young people transit to wage or self-employment", said Cindy Keketavia.

"I deal directly with young people at an early age, in school and what I have learned will better prepare me to assist students. I already have plans to introduce career counselling for teachers and students, said principal Alex Gina Kivoiv from Panatina Community High School".

At the end of the training, a work plan was established by organisations that attended for follow up activities that will see this training extended to other teachers and young people.

A young entrepreneur making use of her abilities



Mary Osiabu displays her doormats.

Solomon Islands young disabled people's entrepreneurship success story by Youth@work MARY OSIABU, a youth

with an intellectual disability, is excited to become an entrepreneur. The young woman, from Choiseul and Malaita, has decided to set up a small business selling doormats she has made.

The 32-year-old recently completed the Young Entrepreneurs Programme run by Youth@Work, a community organisation which helps young people who are considering self employment.

"I joined the training, and was asked to come up with a business plan," she said. "I decided on selling doormats as my business idea as I already knew how to

make them." The doormats she makes are made from recycled materials.

"I have sold four doormats already and just finished another two ready for sale. It is a nice feeling to see people like what I have made."

Mary described her latest doormat as the biggest she has ever made.

"It took more than three weeks to finish it," she said. "With this project, I face little to no problems with it, because it's what I enjoy doing. The only challenge I see is to finish a doormat and move on to the next

one. I save all my money for a rainy day.” Mary, like the other 15 youths who took part in the programme, received a grant upon completion in the form of materials to set up her business.

Mary said she was glad to receive assistance and is doing her best to make the most of it. ILO “Start Your Business” Trainer, Gereia Lepping, said that he finds Mary’s project quite inspiring.

“I find Mary’s business project interesting because it’s recycling yet creative. She

has found a way to make use of recycled materials that most of us see as no longer useful. Mary is very creative and makes use of her abilities.”

Mr Gereia encourages youths with disabilities to consider becoming an entrepreneur.

“I would like to see all youths having motivation and passion for whatever business plans they have and do it to their best to sustain themselves at the end of the day.

“Anyone can become a good business person, you only need the driving force to move into starting your own business, be committed and have support from your families. Just don’t give in to whatever circumstances you face, make use of the talent and skills you have.”

- *This story was written by Youth@Work press to document ILO SYB programme initiatives for youths, as part of the UNHSTF project to promote self-employment in Solomon Islands.*

Building skills for senior Papua New Guinea OSH inspectors

A training programme was developed in response to an assessment of current and future needs to implement legislative responsibilities and provide a platform for building the skills of the Inspectorate.

Over the course of five days during September 2015, with support from the ILO, a foundation skills train-the-trainers programme for labour and occupational safety and health (OSH) inspectors was delivered in Port Moresby. Fifteen experienced Labour and OSH inspectors from Port Moresby and the provinces were selected by the Department of Labour and Industrial Relations to participate in the training. The training was developed in response to an assessment of current and future needs to implement legislative responsibilities and provide a platform for building the skills of the Inspectorate.

It was delivered by a former Senior Labour Inspector from New Zealand, Ms Antoinette Baker, with ILO support. The training provided an opportunity



PNG OSH inspectors.

for inspectors to practice the skills for delivering training to their peers and practice foundation skills for inspection in a classroom environment through role plays and scenarios based on their experiences. The training has subsequently been rolled out to inspectors in the Highlands and

Islands region. This work also provides a platform for the delivery of more advanced training for OSH inspectors under a new project to support OSH Inspection under an initiative between the ILO and Japan Social Security Network Fund.

Implementation of the OSH Bill - Papua New Guinea

The Department of Labour and Industrial Relations, with technical support from the Fiji Government has been developing an OSH Bill to substantially update the existing legal framework and provide for improved compliance with International Labour Standards.

In September 2015, 40 representatives of Government, employers organisations, workers organisations and civil society participated in a one and a half day workshop on implementing a new Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) Bill. The Department of Labour and Industrial

Relations, with technical support from the Fiji Government has been developing an OSH Bill to substantially update the existing legal framework and provide for improved compliance with International Labour Standards. The ILO has also been providing additional technical support to this process.

Under the leadership of the Department of Labour and Industrial Relations, with technical support from the ILO, the workshop was an opportunity for stakeholders to discuss and identify measures to implement OSH law in

Papua New Guinea including actions that can be taken by representatives of employers and workers organisations to raise awareness among members of their rights, roles and responsibilities under a future legal framework.

The workshop was also an opportunity for stakeholders to discuss broader actions supporting preventative workplace cultures and the role and relevance of a National Occupational Safety and Health Policy.

FTUC/ILO Launch 'A Trade Union Guide for Eliminating Child Labour in Fiji'



Participants celebrate launch of new resource guide.

The Fiji Trade Union Congress (FTUC) and the ILO launched a resource guide for trade unions on child labour in November. The booklet, titled 'A Trade Union Guide to Eliminating Child Labour in Fiji' is a practical resource guide to be used by trade union members to assist in the fight against child labour.

Speaking at the launch, Fiji Teachers Union General Secretary Mr. Agni Deo Singh commended the contributions of the trade union members to the completion of the guide. "This guide for trade unions has been the realisation of work on child labour throughout this year which trade union members have greatly contributed to. It also encompasses the work that the FTUC has been doing in trying to raise awareness on child labour with its members as well as in the community at large. The FTUC has worked on child labour issues with ILO on the Tackling Child Labour through Education (TACKLE) Project since 2008 and we are grateful to the European Union for funding this work. Through that funding, FTUC was able to

assist 1,000 children who were involved in or at risk of child labour and we look forward to continuing this work".

ILO Officer-In-Charge and Strategies for Decent Work Specialist, Mr. Satoshi Sasaki called for a more concerted effort from all stakeholders to eliminate child labour. He also highlighted the impact that the TACKLE project had in building capacity on combating child labour in Fiji. "In the past few years, Fiji has accumulated considerable child labour expertise and experience. The Ministry of Employment, Productivity and Industrial Relations has established a Child Labour Unit to coordinate and lead action against child labour. The ILO has also collaborated with other government agencies, the Fiji Commerce and Employers Federation and NGOs on child labour programmes. The ILO has worked closely with the FTUC to implement child labour programmes in the Western Division through the Fiji Teachers Union and has also conducted Child Labour Forums with union members earlier this year. Union members are one

of the key partners in assisting to identify and report child labour and they are ideally placed to monitor activities in their workplace as well as their community, raise awareness and take action against child labour."

"The Trade Union Guide for Eliminating Child Labour in Fiji" is intended for use by union members in all aspects of work on child labour. The guide has practical examples of how awareness can be raised at the community level as well as the national level and take action against child labour. It also contains the relevant national laws and policies relating to child labour such as the Employment Relations Promulgation, the Child Welfare Decree, the Ministry of Education's Child Protection Policy and the Crimes Decree. Users can refer to this if they come across instances of child labour."

In closing his speech, Mr. Sasaki praised the good work being done by the FTUC and unions in eliminating child labour and reaffirmed ILO's commitment to provide technical support to the FTUC as required.

Samoa child labour forum

The ILO in collaboration with the Samoa Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Trade conducted a Child Labour Validation Forum in December. The Forum was part of ongoing work on child labour in Samoa being conducted by the ILO in conjunction

with the Government of Samoa. In October 2014, the ILO conducted a Rapid Assessment on Child Street Vendors in Apia which found children involved in child labour and also in the worst forms of child labour .

The Forum discussed the outcomes of the validation exercises as well as aim to ensure widespread consultation on the findings of the rapid assessment before submission of the study to the National Tri-partite Forum for endorsement.

ILO shows more support to Youth@Work



Youth@Work is a Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) programme designed to tackle the growing challenge of youth unemployment - a key priority for Solomon Islands.

ILO has provided support to Youth@Work to institutionalise training programmes like the Start Your Business Programme (SYB), Career Counselling, Community Based Enterprise Development (CBED) to assist youths in the development of skills to promote self-employment.

ILO Specialist for Decent Work, Mr Satoshi Sasaki, said the ILO and SPC's collaboration brings highly respectable results for both organisations. "It is seen as a successful partnership, as we work towards a particular goal. Reaching our youths."



The ILO has also donated more than a hundred chairs and tables to Youth@Work in July this year that are used in the monthly youth markets to assist young entrepreneurs.

In appreciation of the success and progress of the Youth@Work programme, the ILO has handed over new office equipment in November this year.

SPC Solomon Islands, Country Manager, Mia Rimon, extended her thanks to the ILO and assured the ILO that the equipment is an important addition to the office.

"The programme is growing rapidly and the staff is always hard at work to make sure the trainings are well facilitated. I know with this generous donations from ILO. Youth@Work can undertake their



trainings and daily work more efficiently." "This is a very valuable partnership between the programme and the ILO, hence, we are looking forward to increasing its sustainability and impact on our country's youths." she added.

The support provided by the ILO has assisted the programme to extend its reach to more youths outside of Honiara and provides a sustainability aspect for the continuation of more youths being trained as potential entrepreneurs. This support from the ILO is under the Human Security initiative for "tension" reduction, reconciliation and rehabilitation in the Solomon Islands.

Film highlighting climate change and migration launched



"The Land Beyond the Horizon" captures the stories of Pacific islanders whose lands and livelihoods are threatened by climate change, as well as those who have

had to relocate to other countries, and discusses the impacts on their lives, cultures, languages and traditions.

The film features exclusive footage and interviews with prominent leaders such as His Excellency, President Anote Tong of Kiribati, Prime Minister Enele Sopoaga of Tuvalu and Her Excellency, Mary Robinson, the United Nations Special Envoy on Climate Change – leaders in the frontline of climate change efforts throughout the world.

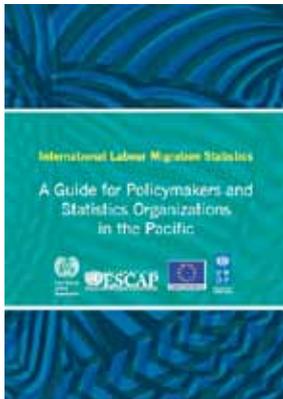
Launching the film at Damodar Event cinemas, Ambassador Andrew Jacobs, Head of the European Union Delegation for the Pacific, explained:

"The phenomenon of migration is going to become more significant in the Pacific. People are starting to leave not just for economic reasons but because their very futures are threatened by climate change, by rising waters. The European Union is supporting the PCCM project to help prepare our partner governments for migration and to manage it in a way that really benefits those who are going to be leaving their countries, either temporarily or on a permanent basis.

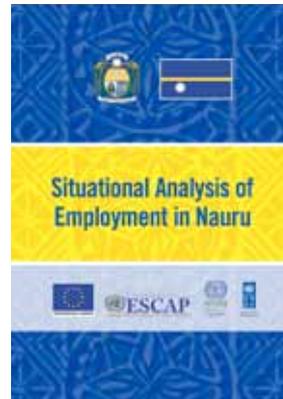
"The Land Beyond the Horizon" was launched to coincide with the September theme of "Demography and Migration" as part of the 2015 European Year for Development campaign.

New publications

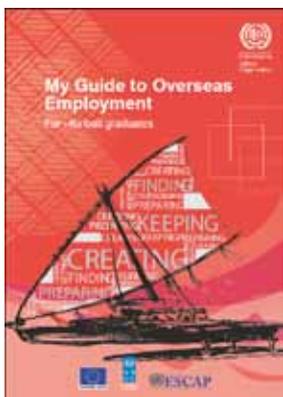
The ILO has produced a number of key publications over the last six months. Here are just a few of our recent resources, also available on our website: <http://www.ilo.org/suva/publications/lang--en/index.htm>



The International Labour Migration Statistics Guide provides valuable information on how countries can glean and analyse statistics on migration from national level surveys, as well as administrative data such as departure and arrival cards.



The Situational Analysis of Employment reviews the principal economic and labour market challenges facing Nauru in terms of generating sustainable employment within the country and overseas, and identifies areas for government strategic planning and interventions to promote effective support for employment growth under the overall framework of a National Employment Policy (NEP).



A companion guide to the ILO's popular 'My Guide to Employment', this publication looks at how graduates (in this case from Kiribati) can research, apply for, and succeed in, overseas employment. Able to be adapted to other countries, the Guide provides valuable information on immigration to Australia, New Zealand PNG, Taiwan and the Cook Islands



The Kiribati National Labour Migration Policy and Action Plan was approved by Cabinet in Kiribati in October 2015, following detailed tripartite consultation. The new NLMP promotes continued bilateral and regional dialogue and cooperation on labour migration, with the aim of strengthening Kiribati's existing labour migration arrangements and developing new opportunities.



A revised version of the Compendium of Legislation and Institutional Arrangements is due to be published in December this, which will provide up-to-date information on how migration in the region is regulated and managed. The current version of the Guide is available on our website.



The Tuvalu National Labour Migration Policy and Action Plan was approved by Cabinet in Tuvalu in August 2015, following detailed tripartite consultation. The new NLMP promotes continued bilateral and regional dialogue and cooperation on labour migration, with the aim of strengthening Tuvalu's existing labour migration arrangements and developing new opportunities.

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ILO Work in Climate Change and Migration Pacific region

Climate Change and Migration in Pacific Island countries

Labour migration is of critical policy importance to many Pacific Island countries, particularly remote island states experiencing the twin challenges of high unemployment and increasing impact of climate change on land and livelihoods. For the past three years, the ILO has been working on a number of labour migration activities including a joint-UN project (with UNESCAP and UNDP) on Pacific Climate Change and Migration, funded by the European Union (2013-16).

Migration is not only a last resort coping mechanism to climate change, but can also be a valuable strategy to help households to diversify household income and thus improve resilience to the impacts of climate change. Migration, including temporary or circular migration, can be a way to reduce strain on resources in the Pacific Islands, enabling communities to remain on their land, and can also bring about a host of other economic benefits. Yet for these migration benefits to be realized, there need to be research-based, coordinated strategies that facilitate labour mobility, taking into account climate change impacts.

The **Pacific Climate Change and Migration Project** has been implemented in the Pacific region since June 2013 with the goals of increasing protection of individuals and communities that are vulnerable to climate change displacement through dialogue and policy; and practical action to increase access to labour migration through well-managed schemes.

The activities under this Project have been focussed on:

1. **Improving the knowledge base** on the impacts of climate change on migration and opportunities for migration through existing channels, as well as how current legislation and policies are placed to enable migration within the region;
2. **Strengthening institutional frameworks** in the priority countries of Kiribati, Tuvalu and Nauru (most vulnerable to the risks of climate change displacement) including improved collection and analysis of data, household surveys on impact on climate change on migration patterns, and whole-of-government approach to developing and implementing migration policy.
3. **Building a regional platform** on migration in the region to coordinate a cohesive approach

‘We don’t want to be climate refugees’: ILO supporting atoll countries’ call for managed migration options, including labour migration

In October this year, the ILO participated in a high level dialogue on climate-induced migration with the Presidents of Kiribati and Tuvalu and Prince Albert II of Monaco. Organised by the CANCC (the Coalition of Low Lying Atoll Nations on Climate Change, and comprised of Kiribati, Tuvalu, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Tokelau and Maldives), October’s meeting was also attended by the UN Assistant Secretary General, the EU Ambassador and other UN agencies including UNHCR, UNDP and UNESCAP. The meeting was an opportunity to discuss critical priorities for countries experiencing the risk of climate change displacement. An Outcomes Document signed by the CANCC countries called for increasing labour migration channels for their people, as well as improving access to education and training.

Failing to plan is planning to fail: Why the Pacific’s first national labour migration policies are important

Kiribati and Tuvalu share not only a joint history (they were part of the same country of the Gilbert and Ellis islands) but also modern challenges, including the task of creating decent job opportunities on islands where remoteness affects economic prosperity. Both countries have been keen to increase opportunities for their migrants, whether on cargo or fishing ships, on Australian and New Zealand farms, or for trade and hospitality graduates with trade qualifications.



The ILO has provided support to the Tuvalu Ministry of Labour, Trade, Tourism, Environment and Labour and the Kiribati Ministry of Labour and Human Resource Development to develop national labour migration policies to ensure a “whole of government” approach and action-based priorities.

‘The Government of Kiribati recognises the important role of international labour migration in addressing a deficit of employment opportunities on our islands’ stated the Kiribati President Anote Tong. ‘It is also a critical component in the concept of Migration with Dignity, which articulates the importance of training I-Kiribati to take up skilled labour migration opportunities in response to climate change threats to livelihoods at home’.



Pacific Climate Change and Migration project team (UNESCAP, ILO and UNDP) with HSH Prince Albert II of Monaco and UNDP RBAP Director, Mr. Haoliang Xu

Improving governments' capacity to support migrant workers



Participants from the Foreign Employment Research and Promotion Training for government officials from Kiribati, Tuvalu and Nauru

Managing labour migration can be a challenge for many small Pacific Island labour administrations. Though migration can facilitate remittances and skills acquisition, it can also be challenging to help nationals find decent migration opportunities, as well as to provide support in case of problems abroad. Whilst seasonal worker programs have greatly benefited rural nationals of Vanuatu, Tonga and Samoa, remote island countries of Kiribati, Tuvalu and Nauru have struggled with marketing and promotion activities to generate awareness and interest of their workready pool amongst participating employers.

Although other opportunities in tourism, aged care and seafaring may also be on the horizon, labour administrations often need support for bilateral labour negotiations, or preparing workers for accessing migration opportunities. This year representatives from Kiribati, Tuvalu and Nauru came together to learn about effective market research and promotion, while at the same time ensuring their workers' safety and well-being abroad.

Facilitating migration within the Pacific region



The PACER Plus trade agreement between Pacific Island countries and Australia and New Zealand has generated much discussion on what opportunities can be made available to Pacific Islanders in the neighbouring developed countries. The other labour migration scheme under negotiation. The Pacific Island Countries Trade Agreement (PICTA) Temporary Movement of Natural Persons Scheme, under the Trade in Services Protocol is also generating interest. First proposed as a way to help resolve labour shortages that Pacific Island employers face, through targeted migration from other Pacific Island countries, the negotiations have been progressing slowly.

Over the course of this year, the ILO has been supporting the Pacific Island Forum Secretariat to conduct labour market studies in Papua New Guinea, Fiji and Samoa to help identify which sectors face current and predicted labour shortages, and whether these can be relieved through temporary migration from other Pacific Island countries.

Strengthening statistics on labour migration in the Pacific



EU Ambassador Andrew Jacobs at the launch of the Statistics Guide

The relationship between statistics and policy is similar to what a foundation is to a house – build a policy on the wrong information and your 'house' soon starts to slip. So it is relevant to note that numerous countries in the Pacific do not have a system for collecting and analysing information on migration – a topic which has become a prominent area of domestic and regional policy discussions.

To support the knowledge base on international labour migration statistics, the ILO and UNESCAP jointly developed the region's first technical guide to labour migration statistics for policymakers and statistical organizations, launched by the EU Ambassador for the Pacific in May this year.

"Reliable and timely statistics are the bedrock of good policy," noted the Ambassador, noting that the Guide is a useful tool better understanding and planning labour migration in the Pacific".

Fishy business: migrant workers on fishing vessels



Participants at the ILO-FFA technical consultation on Work in Fishing Convention in the Solomon Islands

A technical consultation for government officials concerning working conditions on fishing vessels for ILO member states in the Pacific took place in November this year in Honiara, Solomon Islands. Co-organised by the ILO and the Fisheries Forum Agency as a contribution to the Pacific Climate Change and Migration Project, the workshop provided an opportunity for sharing of information on current issues for persons working on fishing vessels, who may often be migrant workers or people working on foreign vessels.

Although increasing opportunities for Pacific Island workers on such vessels is an important job creation strategy, particularly for climate change vulnerable atoll countries, abuse and exploitation have plagued the industry globally. The consultation focussed on improving co-ordination between fishing and labour ministries and examining protections in ILO Convention 188 (Work in the Fishing Sector), which can help to ensure minimum working conditions for this vulnerable group of workers.