

27th November 2012

**Statement from Mr David Lamotte, ILO Director-Office for Pacific Island Countries,
on the occasion of
the launch of the Pacific Growth and Employment Project**

Ladies and Gentlemen.

I would like to conclude with a personal reflection on the importance of the Australian Government - ILO Partnership and its associate projects.

My office covers nine countries in the Pacific and this number is growing. No other ILO country office in the world covers this many countries or such a diverse region of the world. Too often, the development needs and aspirations of Pacific Island Countries are overlooked or not given sufficient attention. The Australian Government - ILO Partnership is helping my office correct this oversight.

The partnership is providing much needed resources and expertise. And for this I am extremely grateful to our Australian Government counterparts for their assistance, encouragement and support.

The Pacific Growth and Employment Project that we are launching today is a significant contribution to our portfolio of work in the Pacific. The other Pacific project which is part of the Australian - ILO Partnership is the Labour Governance and Migration project. This other project helping targeted Pacific Island countries put in place, appropriate labour laws and institutions that lead to improved employment outcomes.

Both these projects have some common characteristics, which I believe are important features of the Australian - ILO Partnership

- Firstly, they involve a sustained and committed engagement with national governments and representatives of organizations employers' and workers, over a significant period of time, with specific purpose and expected measureable labour market and employment outcomes.
- Secondly, they are built on principles of partnership and shared learning at many levels. Both projects utilize the expertise of the Government of Australia, the Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ACCI) and the Australian Council of Trade Unions (ACTU) to provide mentoring and support to their Pacific Island counterparts.

These characteristics and many more make the Australian Government - ILO Partnership crucial for our work in the Pacific.

I assure everyone of our highest commitment to ensuring the success of the Partnership and its associated projects.

Thank you. David Lamotte