REGIONAL GOVERNANCE WORKSHOP ON STRENGTHENING PARLIAMENTARY DEMOCRACY IN FORUM ISLAND COUNTRY LEGISLATURES
Apia, Samoa
23 & 25-26 April 2005

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Workshop Goal: To examine options for strengthening the role of parliamentary processes and identify possible actions for: increasing parliamentary independence and integrity; strengthening the capacity of Parliaments to exercise their oversight roles; and improving the understanding of the function of Parliament and roles of MPs

Day 1 - Saturday 23 April 2005

Objectives: 1. To compare the Parliamentary systems of the Pacific and in identifying the strengths and weaknesses in ensuring independence draw up a list of country level and regional action for enhancing the independence of Parliaments in the region.
2. To consider the role of the free flow of information as a contributing factor to the capacity of members of Parliaments to carry out their representative role.

1330 - 1405  REGISTRATION

1405 - 1415  Call to Order by Chair:
Introduction of programme and adoption of the Agenda
Mr. Mose Saitala,
Legislative Governance Adviser,
Pacific Island Forum Secretariat (PIFS)
Open to media

1415 - 1425  Overview of Workshop & Expectations:
Mr. Henrik Lindroth,
Programme Manager,
Governance for Livelihoods Development Program (UNDP)

1425 - 1435  Welcome Remarks:
Ms. Georgina Bonin,
Assistant Resident Representative,
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

1435 - 1450  Keynote Address:
Hon Toleafoa Faafisi,
Speaker,
Parliament of Samoa

1450 - 1515  Afternoon Tea
1515 – 1730  **Session 1:**
STRENGTHENING PARTNERSHIPS BETWEEN THE PARLIAMENT, THE GOVERNMENT AND THE PEOPLE

1515 - 1600  **Panel Session,**
Facilitator: Mr. Henrik Lindroth, Programme Manager, GOLD Programme, UNDP

Select Country Representatives Presenting Key Strengths and Weaknesses in Advancing Parliamentary Independence and Public Involvement.
Key Issues Include:
   i) Relationship between the executive arm of Government and the Parliament;
   ii) Role of media in scrutinizing and increasing public participation of the work of the legislature

1600 - 1700  **Group Work**
Issues and possible options to enhance independence of Parliaments in the region through strengthened partnerships between Parliament, Government and the People– include both country level and regional action

1700 - 1730  **Summary of Session 1:**
Group Reports plus Presentation of Outcomes with Suggested Actions
Facilitator: Mr. Johnson Honimae, Executive Director, Solomon Islands Broadcasting Corporation (SIBC)

1830  **Welcome Cocktail**
*Hosted by the PIFS and the UNDP*

**Day 2 - Monday 25 April 2005**

*Objective:* To review and evaluate Legislative Needs Assessment Findings as well as the role of information services, and identify national and regional reform opportunities in Pacific Island Parliaments

0830 - 0845  **Recap of Day 1**
Mr. Henrik Lindroth, Programme Manager, Governance for Livelihoods Development Programme (UNDP)

0845 - 1230  **Session 2:**
OVERVIEW OF THE LEGISLATIVE NEEDS ASSESSMENT FINDINGS: THE WAY FORWARD

0845 - 0900  Mr. Mose Saitala,
Legislative Governance Adviser,
Pacific Island Forum Secretariat (PIFS)
0900 - 0915  Dr. Michael G. Morgan,  
Deputy Director,  
Centre for Democratic Institutions Research School of Pacific & Asian Studies,  

**Key Issues Include:**  
i) Revenue Policies;  
ii) Expenditure Policies;  
iii) Parliamentary Accounts Committees;  
iv) Public Service Broadcasting and  
v) Information Disclosure Policies  

0915 - 1000  **Country Reactions**  
Identification of key issues to focus on in the working groups  

1000 - 1030  **Morning Tea**  

1030 - 1145  **Group Work**  

1145 - 1230  **Summary of Session 2:**  
Group reports plus presentation of Outcomes with Suggested Actions  
(Items iv and v held over until tomorrow)  
Facilitator: Dr. Michael G. Morgan, Deputy Director, Centre for Democratic Institutions Research School of Pacific & Asian Studies  

1230 - 1330  **Lunch**  

1330 - 1630  **Session 3:**  
**PARLIAMENTARY LIBRARIES, RESEARCH SERVICES AND ICT OPTIONS: STRENGTHENING THE INFORMATION LINK BETWEEN THE PARLIAMENTARIANS AND THEIR CONSTITUENCIES**  

1330 - 1400  **Presentation**  
Parliamentary libraries and research services: Potential for ICT to improve parliamentary efficiency and effectiveness:  
Ms. Moira Fraser, Head, Parliamentary Library, New Zealand  

1400 - 1415  **Practical Illustration: The Tonga Case**  
Ms. Fetai Pale, Clerk, Legislative Assembly, The Kingdom of Tonga  

1415 - 1440  **Presentation**  
Difference between public service and government media and their ability to enhance community access, and participation in the work of the Parliamentarians:  
Mr. Bruce Donald, Media Lawyer  

1440 - 1500  **Case Study:**  
The Solomon Islands Broadcasting Corporation (SIBC): The Public Broadcasting Bill  
Mr. Johnson Honimae, Executive Director, (SIBC).  

1500 - 1530  **Afternoon Tea**  

1530 – 1630  **Panel Session**  
Current status of libraries and research capacity: What is needed, how can it be
realised, and what role could information services play?
Resource People from Participation parliaments
Facilitator: Ms. Moira Fraser, Head, Parliamentary Library, New Zealand

1630 - 1700  **Summary of Session 3:**
Discussion and presentation of Outcomes with Suggested Actions
Ms. Judi Cooper, Programme Manager, Pacific Media and Communications Facility (PMCF)

**Day 3 – Tuesday, 26 April 2005**

**Objective:**

0830 - 0845  **Recap of Day 2**
Mr. Henrik Lindroth, Programme Manager, Governance for Livelihoods Development Programme (UNDP)

0845 - 0915  **Session 4: MEDIA AND THE PARLIAMENT: ROLE OF PUBLIC SERVICE BROADCASTING AND INFORMATION DISCLOSURE POLICIES**
What action could be taken to further consider the role, functions and legislative context of public service broadcasting, and to consider the role of government media and the free flow of information to strengthen the representative role of the parliament.

**Presenters:**
Mr. Bruce Donald, Media Lawyer
Mr. Johnson Honimae, Executive Director, (SIBC)

0915 - 1000  **Country Reactions**
Identification and documentation of key issues to focus on as outcomes with suggested actions.
Facilitator: Bruce Donald, Media Lawyer

**Key Issues Include:**

i. Legislative issues (including Broadcast legislation and the PSB acts);
ii. Independence policies (including Boards, appointments, and editorial policies);
iii. Expenditure policies (including the purpose of corporatisation);
iv. Public Service Broadcasting v government media
v. Information Disclosure policies

1000 - 1030  **Morning Tea**

1030 - 1200  **Group Work**
Agreement on further work that needs to be done on the role and functions of public service broadcasting and information disclosure policy.
Facilitator: Judi Cooper, Programme Manager, (PMCF)
1200 - 1245  **Group Reports, Summary of Key Results and Workshop Follow-up**
Mr. Henrik Lindroth, Programme Manager, (UNDP)
Mr. Mose Saitala, Legislative Governance Adviser, (PIFS)

1245 - 1300  **Workshop Closing**
Hon Misa Telefoni,
Deputy Prime Minister,
Samoa