

Effective Public-Private Dialogue for Pacific Island Countries

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Public-Private Dialogue (PPD): The Operating Environment

- **Effective PPD limited by misconceptions, miscommunications and misunderstanding**
- **Private sector viewed as self-serving and greedy**
- **Public sector viewed as inefficient, slow and protective of its power and position**
- **PPD is a forum that allows communication/negotiation/discussion between government and private sector**

Regional Public-Private Dialogue

- Pacific Islands Private Sector Organization (PIPSO) established in 2005 by Pacific Islands Forum Economic Ministers' Meeting
- Product of vision and policies of Forum Leaders
- Fundamental Premise - private sector is a key partner to governments in the process of national and regional development
- Members are National Private Sector Organizations (NPSOs) of the 14 PICs
- Principal objective is *“to foster and facilitate PPD and to ensure achievement of common goal of member countries and of the Pacific Plan for sustainable economic growth for all”*
- PIFS, UNDP Pacific Centre and Pacific Leadership Program (PLP) as key partners to PIPSO

Examples of Regional PDD facilitated by PIPSO and Partners

- **1st Regional Pacific Islands Business Forum, August 2007, in Nadi (PIFS and UNDP)**
 - **Attended by regional business leaders, Ministers responsible for Trade & Business Development as well as private sector representatives & senior officials (FICs) and multilateral organizations**
 - **Regional Economic Integration- Opportunities and Challenges in the private sector**
 - **Trade Agreements - A Barrier or Facilitator for Island Exports?**
 - **Raising Private Investor Confidence through Improvements to the Business Climate**
 - **Competitiveness & Export Development**
 - **Linking Goods to Markets**
 - **Competitiveness & Competition in Telecommunications sector**

Examples of Regional PDD facilitated by PIPSO and Partners

- **Small, Micro & Medium Enterprises Forum, Apia, October 2008 (in partnership with EU/BIZCLIM)**
 - **Strengthening Private Sector Collaboration**
 - **Who Benefits and How?**
 - **Adapting Financing Tools to suit the Needs of SMMEs**
 - **Creating and Exploring Opportunities for Growth/Breaking Boundaries**
- **Workshop on ‘Economic Opportunities for Pacific Women in Business’, Port Vila, March 2010**
 - **Celebrating advances made on women’s economic empowerment and examining ways of overcoming obstacles and finding practical solution to advance entrepreneurs’ participation in global economy**

Examples of Regional PDD facilitated by PIPSO and Partners

- **Annual Private Sector Dialogue with Forum Leaders (in partnership with PIFS)**
 - First dialogue (Port Vila) in August 2010 '*Access to Finance*'
 - Second dialogue (Auckland) in September 2011 '*Role of the Private Sector in Driving Sustainable Economic Growth and Creating Employment Activities*'
- **PPD for Micronesian Countries (FSM, Palau and Marshall Islands) in Chuuk, November 2011 (in partnership with PLP)**
 - Inaugural workshop attended by private sector representatives and Ministers of Commerce and officials
 - Focused on PPP opportunities in areas of power utilities & telecommunications, shipping & air transport, and trade facilitation.

National PPD

- In small PICs, family, business and political relationships are intertwined and difficult to ignore
- Private sector organizations perceived as self-serving, focusing solely on profit of a few, and ignorant of wider social development issues
- Government coordination sometimes lacks understanding of private sector
- NPSOs perceived as not fully representative of private sector interests, including SMMEs
- Private sector inputs to public policy discussions not technically strong or evidence based
- Governments' approaches to dialogue often perceived as just '*ticking the box*' exercise
- NPSOs often do not have capacity to make timely & informed contributions to a wide variety of Government mechanisms

Lessons Learned – Promoting Sustainable Growth and Building Resilience

- **Strong and Visionary Leadership (Economic and Financial Reforms)**
- **Macroeconomic Stability**
- **Good Governance** (public and private sector)
- **Political Will to Engage with Non-State Actors (NPSO, Civil Societies)**
 - Depth of PPP Dialogue
- **Informed Policy Advice**
 - Professional, Competent and Politically Neutral Public Service
- **Capacity Building and Funding**
 - NPSO, PIPSO, CSO

Examples of Public-Private Partnership - Samoa

- **Economic Reforms and Financial Liberalization (1994 to 2000)**
- **Reform in the Public Works Department**
- **Petroleum Bulk Purchasing**
- **Privatisation and Regulation of Telecommunications**

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