



Nauru Bulletin

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ADB leads consultation for the first national women's policy

Nauru in partnership and assistance from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) is in the process of developing its first national women's policy that will incorporate the provision of rights and priority areas for the women of Nauru.

An ADB team led by Gender Advisor Kate Gleeson, included Economist and ADB Country Team Leader for Nauru Milovan Lucich and ADB Senior External Relations Officer Sally Shute-Trembath, were in Nauru last week (28 Oct – 1 Nov) to conduct a community consultation workshop for the national policy.

The workshop objectives were to raise awareness and understanding of the Government of Nauru's plan to develop and implement a national women's policy as well as to discuss issues of concern for Nauruan women; identify priority areas for inclusion in the policy; strengthen relationships and mutual understanding between the women of Nauru and the ADB and establish a joint platform for sharing of information and knowledge in relation to the upcoming national women's policy.

The workshop was officially opened by Minister for Women's Affairs, Hon Charmaine Scotty who welcomed and thanked the ADB team for taking the time to be in Nauru for what is a very

important policy for the women of Nauru.

The minister's main message was to encourage equal rights and equal participation for women; and for women and men to work together in advancing forward.



ADB Gender Advisor Kate Gleeson gauges participant's concerns about women's issues and identifies priority areas for inclusion in the national policy

In several exercises the participants mostly identified the concept of motherhood and family as the "best thing" about being a woman in Nauru.

However, similar groupings of family, friends and the community life are all valued but also identified mostly as the cause of most problems of being a woman in Nauru. They were identified

as the hardest thing to manage therefore the belief of what is holding women back in life, family, work and socially.

In the last exercise, participants suggested the most important areas for government to consider when developing the policy included welfare in general, to enforce stronger laws and better response mechanism in addressing domestic violence, address health needs of women, revise laws such as the criminal code, domestic violence laws and discrimination against women, finance and economic empowerment.

The community workshop is the first stage of the consultations. Stage two involved interviews with government officials the following day (Thursday, 31 Oct) and drafting of the policy that will be made available to the Office of Women's Affairs for comment.

The final draft of the policy is expected in February 2014 following the completion of a gender audit that will be carried out by the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC).

The team departed last week (1 Nov) but will return in February 2014 for the final draft of the Nauru National Women's Policy•

2013 government scholarship winners

- | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Jonah Harris | 9. Masterson Notte |
| 2. Jeruska Togoran | 10. Victoria Cook |
| 3. Aoki Joseph Limen | 11. Breezae Grundler |
| 4. Cindy Marie Bagadouwe | 12. Sitiveni Peo |
| 5. Katherine Adam | 13. Belajane Seymour |
| 6. Henriona Denuga | 14. Merip-Eidon Adeang |
| 7. Lomei Agir | 15. El-gina Amram |
| 8. Alvin Amwano | |

The 15 successful students will be enrolled in Fiji schools at the start of the 2014 academic year on fully funded government scholarships. The government offers its congratulations and the very best in their studies ahead.

Bendigo bank representatives talk to locals about a community bank

Following announcements by Finance Minister David Adeang of the establishment of a community bank on Nauru, senior officers of Bendigo Bank were on island this week (4-6 Nov) to promote the idea as well as consult the community on their expectations in the reintroduction of banking facilities on the island.

Bendigo and Adelaide Bank representatives Colin Russell and David Macauley arrived on Monday (4 November) to conduct a number of financial literacy seminars with local community groups as well as with government employees and state-owned entities.

The purpose of the meetings is to engage local community and government groups and provide a background of the bank, its services and to explain the community bank model.

Consultations began this week (4 Nov) with the newly appointed directors of the Nauru Holding Company and the community representatives. It was highlighted that future directors will be voted for by shareholders. While the directors make decisions concerning the bank, they do not participate in the daily banking operations.

Bendigo Bank's Operations Manager Customer and Community, Mr Macauley said the proposed bank model places emphasis on community participation and ownership with profits being contributed to community projects.

Mr Macauley highlighted that for the model to work properly it was necessary for members of the community to contribute capital funds to start up the bank. Contributors to the start-up fund are essentially buying shares in the bank entitling them as shareholder to a vote. The community bank model requires community input which ideally creates a sense of ownership for the community.

"That's what we've been doing in Nauru is checking whether there are enough people who are interested in becoming shareholders," Mr Macauley said.

"In our experience it usually takes about three to four years for a community bank to become profitable and at that stage they can start to provide shareholder dividends or a return on shares, but that depends on how profitable the business is," Head of Community for Bendigo Bank Colin Russell said.

The seminars stressed that the functions of the bank and the benefits of depositors, or account holders at this Nauru Community bank will be the same as any banking operation in Australia.

Plans and discussions with the government are ongoing•

Bendigo Bank Operations manager David Macauley (L) and Head of Community Colin Russell were in Nauru this week (4-6 Nov) to hold consultations and awareness talks with the community and government entities about setting up a community bank

Who is Bendigo bank?

Bendigo Bank is working with our community to reintroduce banking to Nauru.

This is welcome news, but who is Bendigo Bank and what can they do for us?

Bendigo Bank was established in 1858, in Australia's south east state of Victoria.

Bendigo was a gold mining town and the Bank opened to help miners build their own homes.

The Bank's been very successful since that time.

It has made a profit every year for the past 155 years – this includes the recent Global Financial Crisis and the Great Depression of the 1930's.

It's never failed to repay a person who has put money in the Bank (depositor).

Like all Australian banks, the first \$250,000 a customer deposits with Bendigo Bank is guaranteed by the Australian Government.

This means the Government will repay people the money they put into an Australian bank if it fails.

Bendigo Bank is working to get the government guarantee to apply to Nauru.

The Nauruan Government has named Bendigo Bank as the country's preferred bank.

But it is important to know Bendigo Bank is independent.

It is listed on the Australian Stock Exchange (as Bendigo and Adelaide Bank) and is owned by about 90,000 shareholders.

This means it has to follow the laws and rules which guide all Australian banks.

Bendigo Bank has 6,500 staff who serve 1.5 million Australian customers.

In Australia, it has 1,900 ATMs, 600 branches or service outlets and offers telephone and internet banking.

In the next edition of the Nauru Bulletin, we will look at what a Community Bank® branch is and how one could benefit Nauru•



OCTA meets with cabinet for trade and investment seminar

Consultant from the Office of the Chief Trade Adviser (OCTA) Dr Carmen Voigt-Graf conducted an information seminar on trade with members of parliament last week (Wednesday, 30 October) in the cabinet meeting room.

At the seminar, Dr Carmen Voigt-Graf spoke on the two topics of trade-in-services and investment and outlined the purpose of the seminar.

“The idea is to get a baseline of what exists in the country to then move on to what Nauru could gain from liberalisation in terms of services and investment,” said Dr. Voigt-Graf.

During her presentation Dr Voigt-Graf outlined three issues that covered a brief background of OCTA, what PACER-Plus negotiations are and the purpose of her visit to Nauru.

Dr Voigt-Graf stated that the information seminar is potentially important because Nauru along with other Pacific countries, expects mostly to gain from the labour mobility chapter of PACER-Plus negotiations and more access to the Australian and New Zealand labour markets. This may entail creating a broader framework for co-operation between PACER-Plus member countries.

During her brief visit to Nauru Dr. Voigt-Graf met with the heads of department of Health, Education, Finance, Commerce and Industry, Transport and Justice.

OCTA has conducted several consultation visits to Nauru earlier in the year to identify areas of needs which OCTA can address through PACER-Plus negotiations.

“The consultations are also an opportunity for us (OCTA) to see the expectations of Nauru for those negotiations,” said Dr Voigt-Graf.

She added throughout the year OCTA organises numerous activities that PACER-Plus members usually attend. This includes the upcoming 7th Annual Forum of Developing Country Negotiator which is held in Jakarta. This is a workshop that primarily focuses on investment component and is set to begin next week.

Dr Voigt-Graf departed Nauru later in the afternoon on the same day (30 October)•



OCTA consultant Dr Carmen Voigt-Graf met cabinet for discussions on trade-in-services and investment

President Waqa receives British high commissioner

The British High Commissioner to Nauru, Dominic Francis Meiklejohn OBE presented his letter of credence to President Baron Waqa last week (29 October) at the Presidential Office.

Mr Meiklejohn paid courtesy calls to the Acting Secretary for Foreign Affairs and Trade Mr Peter Jacob before being received by the Acting Director of Police for the playing of the national anthems and inspection of the police Guard of Honour.

Mr Meiklejohn was later escorted the President's Office for the official presentation.

The High Commissioner conveyed a message of gratitude before presenting letters of credence from Her Majesty the Queen of England to President Waqa.

President Waqa congratulated Mr Meiklejohn on his new posting as the High Commissioner of Britain to Nauru.

Mr Meiklejohn also made courtesy calls to cabinet ministers, Chief Secretary Bernard Grundler and later met with the Speaker of Parliament Ludwig Scotty at a dinner reception hosted by President Waqa later the same evening.

At the dinner, Mr Meiklejohn again expressed his gratitude for the warm welcome that was accorded to him during his brief stay. He also reaffirmed the British Governments' commitment to addressing climate change and Nauru's important role as Chair of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS).



H.E President Baron Waqa presents a gift to British High Commissioner Meiklejohn at the dinner on 29 Oct. The gift is carved into the shape of Nauru from indigenous tomano wood

“I convey on behalf of the British government our sincere appreciation and our warm applause for the work that has been done by Nauru as the chair of AOSIS, there is very little that is more important to us than tackling climate change and we fully recognise and value the role that Nauru plays in that process,” Mr Meiklejohn said.

President Waqa expressed his appreciation and that he looked forward to the assistance of the UK to the work of AOSIS and climate change talks.

“From our discussions today we hope to hear from you soon regarding your support to AOSIS and other upcoming projects,” President Waqa said.

Mr Meiklejohn is also accredited to Vanuatu and the Solomon Islands and is based in Honiara. He departed Nauru last week on Wednesday (30 October)•

Another two families receive keys to their new homes

The eighth and ninth houses to be completed under the Government's new housing scheme were handed over last week to the Agir and Teimitsi families.

The homeowners of the eighth house, Janson and Relina Agir, received the key to their new home in Buada by His Excellency President Baron Waqa who was accompanied by Minister Shadlog Bernicke who is also Member for Buada.

The house was built by Boda Line Construction, which is led by Wesson Fritz.

The ninth house completed was in Aiwo district and new homeowners Albert and Elvani Teimitsi gladly cut the ribbon to their new home which was constructed by Eigigu Holdings Corporation.

President Waqa was also present for the occasion and was accompanied by Madame Louisa Waqa, Minister and MP for Aiwo Hon Aaron Cook.

The Nauru Government's new housing scheme is interest-free housing loan provided to address overcrowding and assist Nauruan families get ahead with constructing and owning their own houses.

Each housing loan is worth \$40,000 and is repayable over 15 years•



Mrs Relina Agir receives the keys to her new home from President Baron Waqa



Mr and Mrs Albert Teimitsi cut the ribbon signifying the opening of their new home

CIE drafts national energy roadmap

The Department of Commerce, Industry, and Environment (CIE) hosted a consultation workshop last week (Wednesday 30 October) at the Civic Centre for the final drafting of the Nauru Energy roadmap.

A technical assistance team facilitated the workshop and showed several presentations on renewable energy, energy efficiency, transport, power, and petroleum.

The purpose of the workshop was to collect suggested strategies and activities for the roadmap from the various government sectors and state-owned enterprises (SOE).

The main targets of the roadmap are; to have a 24/7 grid electricity supply with minimal interruptions, have 50% of the grid electricity supplied from renewable energy sources, and improve 30% in energy efficiency in the residential, commercial, and government sectors.

Participants discussed a variety of issues including the current status of power on Nauru, usage of petroleum, and the benefits of renewable energy.

Solar energy was identified as the most appropriate component for the roadmap at present.

It is estimated that approximately \$54-million worth of solar panels would be required for Nauru.

The next step of the road map would be to complete analysis of wind data on Nauru and carry out detail and designs for solar panels.

The roadmap is essentially to create a practical implementation plan to reach the goals laid out in the National Sustainable and Development Strategy (NSDS) and National Energy Policy Framework (NEPF).

The roadmap will therefore be the Government's official document serving as an implementation plan for the 2009 NEPF for the period 2013-2020 and will take a whole-of-sector approach.

Ms Katerina Syngellakis, Mr Alan Bartmanovich, and Dr Herbert Wade were in Nauru from Monday 28 October to Friday 1 November. they have since returned to their respective home offices where they will collate the feedback received from the consultation and finalise the roadmap draft•

The Nauru Bulletin is a fortnightly publication of the Government of the Republic of Nauru.

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NAURU BULLETIN



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