



# C S O FORUM 2007 TONGA



# BACKGROUND

- Disability services in the Pacific 1960-1980
- DPO Leaders in PICs met in Fiji in 2002
- Desire for a South Pacific federation of Persons with Disabilities
- The Meeting saw the birth of PDF
- Started as a loose network due to lack of funding
- Paradigm shift, charity to social, rights based



## BACKGROUND cont'd

- PDF Council and Executive Committee elected in 2004 meeting
- NZAID Reviewed its Disability funding Assistance in the Pacific in 2005
- NZAID Funding for PDF 2006 – 2011  
staff appointed and Secretariat established in January 2007



## BACKGROUND cont'd

- PICs among the poorest and most marginalised
- Barriers are:
  - Myth
  - Ignorance
  - Apathy of policy makers
  - Negative attitude
  - Geographic Isolation
  - High Cost of Participation



# PACIFIC DISABILITY FORUM (PDF)

2004: PDF established

- Work towards:
  - Inclusive
  - barrier-free
  - socially just, and
  - gender equitable societies that
  - recognize the human rights
  - Citizenship
  - contribution and potential of
  - people with disabilities



# Self Help Organisations of PWD / DPO

- National DPO's established in Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, PNG, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Vanuatu
- DPO's in PICs play leading role in advocacy for national policies/plans/legislation
- PIF Leaders endorsed BMF in 2003
- DPI Asia/Pacific Support for DPO Development in the Pacific – DPI Oceania Sub region
- CBSHOD in PNG (12-16/2/07) attended by DPO reps from 13 countries



## Networking And Collaboration With UN Agencies

- DPOs promote ILO Convention 159
- 2004: Fiji ratified C159
- ILO Fiji initiative: “Walking out of poverty” training programme included PWD
- UNESCO and APCD Conducted Sub regional Training on Access to ICT in 2005 in Fiji



## cont'd

- UNESCAP supported Development of National Policy On Disability in PICs
- UNESCAP Review of AP decade of Disabled Persons 1993 – 2002 in PICs
- UNESCAP Seventh Special Body on Pacific Island Developing Countries in 2002 focused on Disability
- UNESCAP Pacific Midpoint Review of BMF, March 2007, Fiji.



# Networking Collaboration among PICs

- 2002 ESCAP Pacific Special Body reviewed Asia Pacific Decade and High-level meeting agrees to BMF;
- 2002 UNESCAP/DPI Oceania submitted paper on education of children with disabilities at PIF Ministers of education meeting
- 2003: Pacific Forum Leaders endorsed BMF for PICs
- Immediate priorities:
  - Develop policies
  - Coordinate research



## cont'd

- 2005; BMF referred to in Pacific Plan after many submissions from DPO's throughout the region;
- 2005 ; PIF/PDF/UNESCAP/ILO organised Pacific Disability Workshop
- 2006; position established PIFS Disability Coordination Officer
- 2007; PIF- informal working group on Disability (PIF, UNESCAP, ILO, WHO, OHCHR, PDF) to prepare Pacific Ministers on Disability Meeting in 2008



## CONCLUSION

Thank You.

Setareki S. Macanawai  
Chief Executive Officer  
Pacific Disability Forum  
24 Desvoux Road  
G.P.O 18458  
Suva, Fiji.

Tel : +679 3307530

Fax : +679 3310469

E- mail : [pdfsec@connect.com.fj](mailto:pdfsec@connect.com.fj)