

Partnership with Civil Societies will ensure Leaders' Regional Vision: Tonga PM

Pacific Islands Leaders' vision of a region of peace, harmony, security and economic prosperity could only be attained through governments working together with civil societies according to Tongan Prime Minister, Hon. Dr. Feleti Vakauta Sevele.

In his opening address at the Regional CSO Forum, Dr. Sevele said the partnership will make a difference to the lives of Pacific communities.

"Our development rests with us as partners. The future of our nations, our region, demand that the civil societies and governments work hand in hand to ensure a truly sustainable Pacific." he told participants of the annual civil society meet.

He added that the Pacific societies are truly diverse and complex and Leaders need to speak in a regional voice which must be recognised, supported and to be heard in order to overcome these challenges.

More than 120 participants from all Pacific island countries as far as Guam, East Timor, Tahiti, Australia and New Zealand have registered for the Forum.

Major deliberations include reflecting Pacific people's values on the Pacific Plan, Pacific trade partnership, energy, Pacific performance on the Pacific plan and MDGs, climate change, human security and HIV/AIDS.

The Forum will have its official closing on Monday, 15th October where the final CSO communiqué that will be presented to Greg Urwin, Secretary General of the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat.