

Local Government New Zealand

# Opportunities for Partnering with Pacific Councils

Wellington, New Zealand  
02 July 2007

Overview of

Commonwealth Local Government  
Forum Pacific Project



# Presentation

1. Pacific local government environment
2. Commonwealth Local Government Forum
3. CLGF Pacific Project – Activities
4. Commonwealth Local Government Good Practice Scheme
5. Opportunities for Councils
6. What is involved?

# Pacific Local Government Challenges

- **Changing and uncertain environment** – rapid urbanisation, legislation, capacity
- **Increasing responsibilities**
- **High expectations**
- **Diminishing revenues**
- **Capacity constraints**
- **Representation & participation**
- **Decentralisation**

# Commonwealth Local Government Forum

- Established in 1995 as the voice of local government in the Commonwealth – greater decentralisation and local democracy
- Membership organisation on a common platform – 170 members in 40 countries
- Formally recognised as a Commonwealth associated organisation

# Commonwealth Local Government Forum.....

- **CLGF Board** – Chair: Mayor Robert Montague (Jamaica)      **Pacific Reps:**  
Cllr Basil Morrison (NZ, Vice Chair),  
Hon Mark Burton (NZ),  
Lord Mayor Peni Volavola (Fiji)
- **Secretary General** – Carl Wright.
- **Project Offices** – Suva, Fiji; Harare, Zimbabwe; Mumbai, India; Caribbean to start shortly.

# Commonwealth Local Government Forum.....

- **Three key focus areas:**
  1. *Promotion and advocacy of local democracy and decentralisation*
  2. *Exchange of Experience*
  3. *Practical capacity building support*

# CLGF Pacific Project

- Established in Suva in 2000 by and for member countries
- Works with network of regional partners to share information, ideas and good practice
- Member countries – Cook Islands, Fiji Islands, Kiribati, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu.

# CLGF Pacific Project

- **Staff** - 4½ (3½ Suva, 1 Pt Moresby)
- **Managed by Technical Advisory Panel** – policy guidance, approve workplan (Solomon Is Chair)
- **Resources**
  - NZAID
  - AusAID
  - UNDP / UN Habitat
  - Commonwealth Secretariat / CFTC
  - Project Partners
  - Suva City Council & PNGULLGA

# CLGF Pacific Project.....

## ■ Project Components:

- Strengthening regional networks and cooperation.
- Service delivery capacity and institutional strengthening.
- Regional exchange of policy and good practice.
- Technical cooperation.
- Commonwealth Local Government Good Practice Scheme – partnerships within the region.

# CLGF Pacific Project.....

- **Goal** is to improve quality of life for communities in the Pacific region through strengthened local democracy and good governance.
- **Key Activities:**
  - Community awareness including women in Local Government
  - Support to dialogue, policy and legislation
  - Strengthen local government associations

# CLGF Pacific Project.....

- Training programmes in country & region
- Local elected leadership training – widely embraced
- Professional staff development
- Research, profiles and case studies –with University of the South Pacific (PIAS-DG), UNDP, FSPI, Pacific Islands Forum Sec.
- Commonwealth Local Government Good Practice Scheme – PNG/Solomons/Fiji/Vanuatu/Kiribati

# Commonwealth Local Government Good Practice Scheme

- **Exchange expertise, skills and knowledge**  
– innovative and sustainable solutions to development challenges
- **Aim is to support Councils to improve efficiency of planning, management, performance and service delivery and local democracy through a partnership approach.**
- **Based on exchange of good practice and skills between practitioners, peer to peer.**
- **Cost effective development assistance.**

# Commonwealth Local Government Good Practice Scheme

- **Facilitating projects between local authorities in the UK and the Caribbean, Asia and Africa; Australia & PNG; Australia & New Zealand & Solomon Is.**
- **Resources include professional staff + Development Partners.**
- **Similar to**
  - ICMA CityLinks – international municipal partnerships
  - PricewaterhouseCoopers Ulysses Programme – global leadership
  - Manukau City Council partnerships

# Commonwealth Local Government Good Practice Scheme

## ■ Current Projects:

- PNGULLGA/ NSW Shires Ass'n – corporate planning for the PNG Association
- Orange/Mt Hagen – town plan, waste mgt
- Townsville/NCDC – regulatory services
- Cairns/Lae – waste management
- Noosa/Alotau – waste management & IT
- Honiara/LGNZ (Kapiti Coast DC)/ Maryborough – institution rebuilding





# HONIARA CITY COUNCIL HEADQUARTER

- ADMINISTRATION & ENFORCEMENT
- TRADE & INDUSTRY
- YOUTH, SPORTS & WOMEN AFFAIRS
- EDUCATION, CULTURE & COMMUNITY ADMIN'
- LANDS & ENVIRONMENT
- TRANSPORT & WORKS
- HEALTH & MEDICAL SERVICES
- FINANCE

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# Opportunities for Councils

- **Both sides have something to gain**
  - Local government has a role in sustainable development
  - Global approach, appreciate diversity
  - Professional and personal development
  - Manage under challenging circumstances, new approaches to problem solving
  - Make a difference, transfer skills, share good practices, moral support

# Opportunities for Councils

- Improve service delivery in developing and transitional local governments
- Partnerships based on values
- Staff motivation
- Increase understanding, tolerance and flexibility – cross cultural environment
- Work better in own community – motivate key sectors, partnerships
- Economic and business opportunities
- Lead to community involvement – schools, service clubs, etc.

# What is involved?

- Strong two-way commitment – strategic, embedded in normal business
- In for the long haul, takes time
- Open and forthright dialogue
- Partnership and equality
- Thorough preparation and planning
- Managing expectations

# What is involved?

- Learning by doing
- Grow a a steady pace, don't try to do too much – be realistic
- The right people – champions
- Political support at highest levels
- Anticipate criticisms
- Perseverance, flexibility



***THANK YOU!***