

Winfa Tonga News Letter Nuku'alofa, Kingdom of Tonga

EDITORIAL

Celebrating International Women's Day March 8, 2004 has been a significant event for Tonga as we adopted the UN theme of 'Women and HIV/AIDS'. This has highlighted the international concern especially for the Commonwealth countries in which Tonga is a member. Commonwealth developing countries account for 60 per cent of the 42 million people living with HIV/AIDS. The 9 most affected countries are all Commonwealth members. Of all the people living with HIV/AIDS in the world approximately half of them are female, according to Commonwealth Secretariat Reports.

Hon. James Cecil Cocker

Tonga is a small developing Pacific nation of approximately 170,000 people. Ministry of Health statistics show that from 1980 to 2001, 12 people had contracted HIV/AIDS with nine deaths by 2001. This is a small number in comparison with other countries. We are fortunate, however, that resources and funds are available to us for awareness and training workshops on the pandemic. The onus on the use of donor funds will depend on how these trainings are received by the community. Prior to the International Women's Day, the Tonga National Youth Congress conducted HIV/AIDS awareness workshops throughout Tongatapu which was followed by a Conference of Church Leaders on HIV/AIDS and STIs.

As recorded by the Ministry of Health, most STI cases in Tongatapu are found in ages 15-25, suggesting that the younger generations in Tonga are becoming more sexually active. This poses a concern of STI victims being subject to contracting HIV/AIDS. Following various discussions with main stakeholders dealing with this issue, it is concluded that a lot of these cases occur from people not being fully aware of their sexuality and the consequences if they do not control it wisely. The solution lies in enlightening these youths about the consequences.

Ignorance can be one's pathway to self-destruction. If we cannot stop promiscuity, we can at least educate them to make informed choices and consequently, the right decisions.

Ms Lisa Williams



Members Pupunga Siueli Group

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GREAT WOMEN OF THE PACIFIC

Mrs Fuiva Kavaliku spent most of her childhood in Fiji where she attended St Anne's School for her Primary Education and St Joseph's High School for her Secondary Education. Upon her return to Tonga she worked as a relieving clerical typist and then she proceeded to Australia's National University in Canberra where she received a Diploma in Non-Formal Adult Education for Development. Mrs Fuiva Kavaliku also received a Certificate in Development Project Planning and Management at the Centre for Pacific Development Training in Sydney. Through a programme conducted in Tonga by AIDAB Development Training she received a Certificate in Social Development and Small Enterprise.

Mrs Fuiva Kavaliku is married to the former Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education of Tonga, Dr Senipisi Langi Kavaliku. They have 13 children, seven girls and six boys, one who is the current Minister of Labour, Commerce and Industries of Tonga and one who is a Catholic Priest.

Following her marriage she made a decision to take twenty years off to care for the needs of her young children, but at the same time conducted voluntary work with women's groups in the main island of Tongatapu as well as in the outer islands. She worked to empower them towards personal development at home and outside of their home. She organized fundraisings and developed project proposals to meet the needs of these women. When she saw that her children were old enough she returned to the workforce and worked as the Director for World Vision International.

She has been a role model for young women as she participated in the Young Women's Christian Association as their president for many years. She was also the moderator for the Pacific Conference of Churches a position generally held by male church leaders. In addition she is the Chairperson for the Pacific Regional Ecumenical Group working towards

Mrs. Fuiva Kavaliku

a more equal inclusion of women in the religious arena. Mrs Fuiva Kavaliku is presently a board member of the Pacific Foundation for the Advancement of Women (PACFAW). Her work and her ideals are recognized as she is chosen to represent the voice of women all around the world in conferences, seminars, workshops, such as the United Nations Conference 'Women 2000' in New York in 2000 as well as the EU Pacific Conference on LOME 1997 and COTONOU 2001. Mrs Fuiva Kavaliku has been chosen as the first National United Nation's Volunteer and has been hired to conduct workshops. The recent workshop being the United Nation's Volunteer workshop on Participatory Assessment on Poverty and Hardship in Tonga where she was a research consultant.

Mrs Fuiva Kavaliku is currently employed as the General Secretary and Coordinator for Women in Development of Langafonua 'a e Fefine Tonga. She is without a doubt an active advocate of Women's rights, making it her responsibility to liberate women. In her own words she believes in women being agents for change, seeing limitations and barriers preventing progress as a challenge to success for the woman, their home and their country. Mrs Fuiva Kavaliku is a prominent figure in Tonga not just by marriage or by social standing but by the heartfelt work that she has done for the women of the country. With her devotion to her country as a mother, a friend, and a patriot these should not go unnoticed.

GREAT WOMEN OF THE PACIFIC

travel industry and for over a decade was named the largest employer of women in Tonga.

She entered parliament as a people's representative in 1978-1981 counting as one of three women who have done so in the history of Tonga. Her strong stance as an individual has deemed an empowering force for women, to inspire to. Through her own life she proves that women, despite social definitions, can break through stereotypes for the betterment of oneself and hence the nation as a whole.

Mrs. Papiloa Foliaki

Mrs Papiloa Bloomfield Foliaki is a daughter of a business man, who grew up at Fatai, a village in the Western parts of Tongatapu. As a youngster she attended the Government Primary School of Fatai and from there attended Queen Salote College for her Secondary Education. She proceeded to Brisbane, Australia for her Tertiary Education at St Andrew's Hospital where she received her



ild welfare and midwifery. The late Dr Supileo Foliaki. Of the five they had three currently in medical school, by a doctor. And their two g financiers.

proud mother of five, a native, an Owner Manager ist destination, and Head moting women's health.

These are but a few of the descriptive titles attributed to Papiloa Bloomfield Foliaki. A woman full of determination and enthusiasm. Papiloa has earned the reputation of being an icon for Tongan women wishing to become leaders within the country.

Following her father's foot steps Papiloa walks in a world clearly dominated by men, as she went into business in 1970 and the Hospitality Industry with the Friendly Islander Hotel in 1979. She has created many jobs within the

Mrs Papiloa Bloomfield Foliaki unfailingly demonstrates her beliefs through her participation in a variety of organizations. She is one of the early members of Langafonua 'a e Fefine Tonga, an NGO agency that caters for the development needs of Tongan women. She is the President of the Tonga Credit Union League, Vice Chairman of Tonga Trust/ FSP, and FSPI and was the past President of Family Planning. Following the loss of her husband Papiloa and her family set up the Dr Supileo Foliaki Foundation in memory of her husband which promotes good health and integral family development.

She has been Tongan Women's voice locally, regionally and internationally encouraging development in all facets, economically, politically and socially. She has used her different roles as a business woman, as a friend and as a family woman, to network with others in seeking opportunities anywhere and everywhere that would help others.

Mrs Papiloa Bloomfield Foliaki has an outstanding legacy that should be recognized and amplified for the ongoing empowerment of women in Tonga and in the region.

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TONGA COMMEMORATES INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY MARCH 8th 2004.

from left: H.E. Mr Gao Shanhai, Hon Cecil Cocker (Guests of Honour) H.E. Mr Collin Hill & Mrs Hill.

The United Nation's theme for the year 2004 is 'Women and HIV/AIDS'. This concern is a world wide phenomenon where gender inequality and power imbalances make women and girls more vulnerable to the HIV/AIDS virus. Tonga adopted the United Nation's theme with their commemoration events for the International Women's Day 2004. The Women and Development Centre of the Prime Minister's Office and the Tonga National Youth Congress delivered HIV/AIDS awareness raising workshops throughout Tongatapu at the Western, Eastern, Central and Nuku'alofa District from the 2nd - 5th of March 2004. This led up to the actual International Women's Day on Monday 8th March, 2004 where the Women and Develop-

ment Centre worked collaboratively with Langafonua 'a Fafine Tonga, Tonga National Youth Congress and the Tonga Family Health to honor the day at The International Dateline Hotel at 10:00 am. The event had a great turnout averaging at 300 people. The program started with Thanksgiving Prayers, followed by a Thematic Exhibition and Skits by the Tonga Family Health and a special song by the Tonga National Youth Congress. The day ended with a spectacular demonstration on the Art of Chinese Cooking displayed with compliments of the Embassy of the People's Republic of China.

Chinese Cooking Demonstration

Tonga National Youth Congress Choir

Thanksgiving Prayer by Rev. Fili Lilo (Free Wesleyan Church)

WORKSHOP

HIV/ AIDS AWARENESS WORKSHOPS MARCH 2-5, 2004.

International Women's Day is a time to celebrate women's past political and social accomplishments, educate the world on the status of women today, and plan for an even more equal and accomplished future. Globally, women in heterosexual relationships are the fastest-growing group in the world contracting HIV/AIDS. Past prevention methods have failed women because they are not structured to their needs. Due to unequal gender-power relations that dictate a woman's political, economic, and social status, heterosexual women's experience with HIV/AIDS is different than any other group and their education needs to be structured to these differences. Grassroots outreach programs, like the workshops we conducted on 2-5 March 2004 in the four districts of Tongatapu, are the most effective ways of educating women of their vulnerability to HIV/AIDS due to global gender relations.

Projects Goals

- * Bring women to the forefront of HIV/AIDS education and awareness.
- * Educate the community on the effects of HIV/AIDS on women on a local and global scale.
- * Celebrate International Women's Day in an educational, recreational, and effective way.
- * To create a documentary on "Tonga International Women's Day - *Women and HIV/AIDS.*"

Program Organization

The one-day workshops proved to be an effective timeframe for optimal participation and absorption of information. If they had been longer, people would not come; if it had been shorter, it would be difficult to cover all the relevant topics. The workshops were officially opened with a prayer a briefing of the program for the day. Then Ms Lilika Fusimalohi from Women and Development Centre of the Prime



Mrs Moana from the Tonga National Youth Congress and participants from the Nuku'alofa District at the Free Wesleyan Church Head Office.

Minister's Office spoke, introducing the services provided by the centre and also emphasizing the importance of celebrating International Women's Day in Tonga. The venues were selected from town or church halls and were suitable for all participants. We asked town officers and church ministers to let us use the halls for free as a contribution from the community to the program. All the workshop venues were centralized in each district so it was not a problem for most people to attend. We targeted 35 participants, 15 female youth and 20 elder women per workshop. The preparation for getting participants was very organized and quite a good number of people turned up. The venues for the workshop were Houma for the Western District, Veitongo for the Central Area, Lapaha for the Eastern Districts and Free Wesleyan Church Conference Room in Nuku'alofa for the Nuku'alofa Area.

Workshop Content

Information was presented in a logical manner. Each day started with an introduction and brief of the day highlighting the International Women's Day and its theme for 2004. It was followed with brainstorming topics before giving the definition of HIV/AIDS. Topics covered in these one-day workshops included:

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W ORKSHOP

HIV/ AIDS AWARENESS WORKSHOPS MARCH 2-5, 2004.

* Modes of transmission or how the virus is passed from one person to another.

* Methods of transmission or things that must happen in order for transmission to occur.

* Bodily fluids that can spread the HIV virus.

* Behaviors that are safe and through which HIV/AIDS can not be spread.

* Global, regional and local statistics which look at numbers of people who have been infected and are living with HIV/AIDS.

* Risk assessment or differentiating each sexual activity according to *high, low* and *no risk*.

* Prevention methods and condom demonstration.

* Review of testing for the virus.

* Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs)

- Symptoms
- Local statistics
- How they are transmitted
- Types of STIs

* Gender equality

* Reasons and facts for women's vulnerability to HIV/AIDS

Workshops Activities

Small and large group discussions, brainstorming, lecturer/presentation, and question and answer sessions were all employed in the one-day workshops. Group activities were very useful and gave participants an opportunity to develop their skills about HIV/AIDS and STI's. After every session participants were given handouts in Tongan for them to take home, read, and share with their families. Overall, participants thoroughly enjoyed the workshop as it also provided them the opportunity to learn and share with each other through these different teaching techniques.

Improvements and Other Comments

Most participants said the venue was convenient for them but they still recommended that the host organization should provide transpor-

tation. 35 people were confirmed to attend each workshop.

The average number of participants ended up being 21 to 25 people. There could have been a better turnout if we had arranged for transportation. In future we will consider the transportation issue.

Participants suggested these issues be considered for future workshop topics:

- Drugs and alcohol
- Teenage pregnancy
- Human rights
- Domestic violence

It was suggested that these issues be touched upon because they are all related to HIV/AIDS and STI's. Furthermore, many women believed that they are part of the problem contributing to the spread of HIV/AIDS and STI's in Tonga and abroad. Participants also requested more visual aids to be used during the workshops, like viewing a video. Interestingly, it also came up from one of the districts that people living with HIV/AIDS or families affected by the disease should be involved in these kinds of meetings.

Recommendations from the Workshop

"This preparation workshop for International Women's Day was a tremendous opportunity for us women in the community," said one of the elder women from the Central Area during their workshop. She shared that this type of workshop or meeting should not be for a particular group but for everyone in the community. The women were very supportive and positive about having the workshops for women only because it allowed them to talk openly and share among themselves and forget about the taboo. But they did not want to discourage men from talking about the issues. One of the participants was a town officer's wife and she strongly sug-

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WORKSHOP

HIV/ AIDS AWARENESS WORKSHOPS MARCH 2-5, 2004.



Mrs Moana F. Kioa, HIV/AIDS Education Coordinator, Tonga Youth Congress and participants from the Nuku'alofa District at the Free Wesleyan Church Head office.

gested that a similar workshop be done for me in the villages. One of the ways suggested was for these sessions for men to be held during the 'faikava' or the kava party.

Most attendees recommended that similar meetings should be held once a month or more often and they should come to the villages where most other women can also attend. Some of them shared that it was difficult for them as mothers to share or to talk about sex or to mention their private parts to their daughters at home. But attending the workshop has made it easier and has encouraged them to talk more openly with their children. It was shared by a teacher that in today's world, kids are able to find information themselves from reading books, friends and the Internet. But she still found herself struggling for words to describe sex or to mention the private parts of the body. The same woman suggested that non-government organizations should lobby Ministry of Education to include HIV/AIDS and STI's in the school curriculum.

One of the participants also admitted that since women in Tonga have limited knowledge and lack of information about AIDS, it puts them at higher risk of getting infected. She also said the opportunity for them to participate in commemorating the 2004 International Women's Day has been an eye-opening experience and more women in Tonga should participate in

these activities. She added "It is no time to play Christian because AIDS is in Tonga and it is at our doorsteps and it could affect every aspect of our lives and community. They were also impressed with the leadership role and responsibility taken from the Prime Minister's Office in regards to providing HIV/AIDS educational programs for the community. This is a good start for people to see that HIV/AIDS leadership can come from the top-down level. Therefore, this kind of partnership is positive and should continue. It was a challenge for me as a facilitator to change the opinion most participants believe that HIV/AIDS is a punishment from God and those infected should be isolated. However by the end of the day, it was possible to convince them by making clear how the virus is spread and the high-risk sexual activities, that it is no harm to love a person and care for someone who has the virus. It was from there that participants had discussions about being responsible for one's own life, learning about AIDS and protecting themselves and their families.

Action Plan

Reflecting on the experiences from the International Women's Day - 2004, ongoing educational and informational workshops on other issues such as discrimination against people living with or effected by HIV/AIDS is essential. We need to adjust our approach to encourage women to talk about sex and relationships and also provide them the opportunity to talk with their children about HIV/AIDS. With the appropriate funding resources and programming, we can work tirelessly to maintain Tonga's low HIV/AIDS infection rate.

The documentary being produced includes clips taken from the one-day workshops and individual interviews with women who were participants. The Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) is assisting in creating this documentary. It will be a useful educational tool a HIV/AIDS in educational programs for the community in Tonga and other Pacific countries.

WORKSHOP

Social Marketing Resource Kit Review Workshop Suva, Fiji, 2 - 12 March 2004.

Background:

As part of the recently launched Pacific Social Marketing Initiative, SPREP and the International Waters Programme have developed a draft Resource Kit for Social Marketing. The Kit was developed by SPREP / IWP in partnership with New Zealand's Ministry for the Environment, in consultation with a small group of environmental education experts from the Pacific Island region.

A consultative workshop was proposed to bring together a larger group of education and communication experts from the region to help review the Kit and develop it into a resource that is practical and usable for others involved in community education and communication initiatives.

Overview of Activities:

The workshop began with an introduction to social marketing and its various stages. A series of worksheets adapted from *Hands - On Social Marketing: A Step-by-Step Guide*, by Nedra Kline Weinreich were used as the basis for providing participants with training on applying social marketing techniques to their own specific situations and experiences.

Participants then focused on sections of the draft Resource Kit and on reworking the worksheets into "stand-alone" tools that could contribute to the development of a social marketing programme in any situation.

Case studies based on experiences of the participants were further developed to highlight key concepts throughout the Resource Kit. Participants also used the opportunity to discuss follow up activities that they would conduct at the national/local level post-workshop. Each participant developed a "project plan"

based on a current or proposed activity in which they would be able to apply some of all of the social marketing tools. Follow up will be determined through further consultation.

Workshop Details:

The workshop was held at the Raffles Tradewinds Hotel in Suva, Fiji. Participants from Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Palau and Representative from Tonga was Hauoli Vi, Communication Media & Environment Project Officer, Langafonua 'a Fafine Tonga. Resource personnel were Seema Deo, Environment Education and Awareness Officer, SPREP and Steve Menzies, Public Awareness Advisor, NZ Ministry for Environment.

Legal Literacy & UNV Off To A Good Start For 2004

It's always the case when you reach the turnover into a new year that you feel too indolent to get yourself to work, pull out your work plan and immediately leap into what you have neatly set out on that nice piece of paper! Especially if you live in Tonga, you will all know what I am talking about – big feasts, family reunions and endless days of free-from-work plans.

Well, by some unknown miracle, the Legal Literacy Office in partnership with the UNV CEDAW & Policy Project have beaten the norm and have set off to a good start for the year 2004. Betty Blake and I worked throughout the Christmas break to develop a strategic work plan in partnership with each other. The intention is to ***Get Things Moving & commence lobbying for CEDAW.***

Included in our work plan for 2004 are [1] a series of workshops that deal directly with CEDAW and how it relates to Tongan society, [2] a string of events that will look at the promotion of CEDAW, for example the International Women's Day Celebrations in March 2004, [3] as well as conducting our 6 major research projects [with the CCRT / Core CEDAW Research Team] on articles identified in the CEDAW document following a CEDAW workshop held in September 2003. The

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Legal Literacy & UNV Off To A Good Start For 2004

research is to be conducted over a period of 12 months followed by a analysis report to be submitted to Government in March 2005 that will say **“hey, yes we do need CEDAW and here’s why!”**

What we are also looking into are the reservations that the Government may have and to clearly identify these reservations. In doing so, this will make the ratification process of CEDAW easier, [hopefully], and give leeway to the Government. I guess what we are really after at the end of the day is to get CEDAW ratified and then all the bits and pieces hanging from the sides to be worked on - *after ratification.*

The Office has been busy since the start of the New Year with a newly recruited volunteer joining the scene, Sela Moa, fresh from USP. Sela will be assisting with Legal Literacy Training. There have also been a large number of enquiries on legal advice following domestic violence cases. It just goes to show that women are slowly becoming aware of their rights and that the number of women now seeking legal advice are on the increase.

Recently we just had a case where a women had been involved in a violent relationship with her husband for over 12 years – in her own words – [translated into English]

“I couldn’t handle it anymore, my body has withstood the pain for 12 years, but that is not why I have come to this place – I came here because of my children – I cannot bare for them to see me constantly beaten up. Most of the time he just beats me and

beats me, and the reason is maybe because there is not enough food in the fridge or maybe because he’s too drunk when he gets home. One time he just beat me up because I didn’t answer him straight away when he called. I answered him the second time he called my name and he came into the kitchen and punched me on the back of my neck. I fell to the floor and he kicked my on the side of my ribs about 3 times. After that he called me names I cannot describe and told me never to wait for a second call again & to always answer on the first call! I cried tears of pain not because of what he did to me but because all my children were watching what was happening to me. It took me about 12 days to recover from the bruises.”

What is disappointing when we come across cases like this, is that the loops in the current legislations for the protection of women in domestic violence cases are so huge that it is vital we push for ratification of CEDAW to ensure the betterment of women’s lives in all spheres. The example above is just but one of many that have come through. Hopefully with the detailed research conducted over the next

12 months will eventually Bring CEDAW home to Tonga

Until the next time, remember if you ever come across any of Tonga’s major decision makers, it won’t hurt to mention CEDAW in your conversation - you will be helping us lobby for the ratification of a beautiful document that will make Tonga a better place to live for women all over Tonga.

Malo ‘Aupito & ‘Ofa atu,

Betty Blake, Sela Moa & ‘Ofa - k i- Levuka
Guttenbeil-Likiliki.

MEETING

Commonwealth Preparatory Meeting of Heads of National Women's Machineries, to Plan 7-WAMM, 28-29 February 2004, New York for the Seventh Meeting of Commonwealth Ministers Responsible for Women's/ Gender Affairs (7-WAMM), 30th May - 2nd June 2004, Fiji Islands.

Prep-Com for the negotiations of the 2005 - 2015 Commonwealth Gender and Development Plan, and for the 7th Commonwealth Meeting of the Minister's Responsible for Women's / Gender Affairs scheduled for 30th May - 2nd June 2004, in the Fiji Islands. As approved by Cabinet, Deputy Secretary Polotu Fakafanua-Paunga of the Prime Minister's Office represented Government at the Meeting.



Mrs Polotu Paunga, Deputy Secretary & Head of Women and Development Centre.

Draft Commonwealth Plan of Action, 2005 - 2015

The draft Commonwealth Plan of Action, 2005-2015 focused on 5 Critical issues, and these were:

- Democracy and Good Governance
- Gender and Human Rights
- Gender and HIV / AIDS
- Gender and Economic Empowerment
- Implementation

The Pacific Caucus

The draft text was discussed in regional Caucuses who met in 5 different Groups, the Africa/Europe, Asia, Caribbean/Canada, Pacific and the Commonwealth Associations/International Agencies. The Pacific Caucus included Australia and New Zealand and together we developed and presented to the plenary discussion, the following proposed amendments and alternative text to the draft Plan on the focus areas on Gender and Human Rights, Gender and HIV/AIDS, Women and Economic Empowerment and the Way Forward / Implementation. A listing of issues in no order of priority emerged as follows;

- Economic, Social, political, environmental security which impacts the livelihood of Pacific communities and increases their vulnerability to development opportunities.
- Climate Change and Rising sea level.

- Cross cutting issues of race ethnicity class, culture, religion, identity and indigenous issues need to be considered by governments in their national context as they implement actions to address the critical issues.
- Commercial sexual exploitation of girls, boys and women.
- Care for vulnerable groups in Pacific communities – elderly women and men, persons with disabilities.
- Gender Impact of Economic Globalization.
- HIV/AIDS as a development and security issue for Pacific island countries.
- Intellectual Property Rights and Patent Laws need to be legislated and registered internationally to ensure protection of Pacific women's traditional knowledge.
- Protection of Migrant Women Workers Rights.
- Development of Effective Monitoring and Evaluation mechanisms e.g. Performance Indicators and benchmarking.
- Documentation and dissemination of Best Practices on effective strategies relating to the 4 critical areas of concerns in CPoA.
- Clear Definition of Partnership between and among all stakeholders to be reflected in document.

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**PUPUNGA SIUELI 'O FASI - MO E - AFI
'A TUNGI**

front row: Seini Vea, Minia Vatuvei

*back row: Valeti Mohuanga, Liliani Vatuvei,
'Uluakimata Moala, Luseane Mafuataimi & Silvia
'Amato.*

The existence of the Pupunga Siueli 'o Fasi-mo e-Afi 'a Tungi Group is partially a response to the growing concern by the Tonga Government to address the issues of environment protection, waste management and land degradation. A group of women in the village of Fasi



formed this non-group which came in November 2003. The group is closely aligned with the Reform Program and aims to support communities and promote integrity in the country's environment.

The group has recently passed its own Constitution which formally stipulates the Group's long-term objectives; role function; strategies and actions plan comprised in a 3 year plan. Under the guidance of the Executive Committee, the group has commenced implementing their own Environment awareness program. As part of their programme the group has taken it upon themselves to look after the waterfront area (starting from the International Dateline Hotel parking area to the Yacht Club sea front) in terms of landscaping, grass mowing, rubbish picking and gardening. This is done twice a month.

The Women and Development Centre of the Prime Minister's Office assisted the group by donating traditional Tongan plants to be planted at their homes for safe keeping and grooming.

Mrs Palu Falemaka twists happily with her Kolutoto plants.

Mrs Silvia 'Amato is very happy with a Heilala plant donated by WDC of the Prime Minister's Office to be planted at her home.

Mrs Kalo Pohiva & Makeleta Lepa with a Langakali & Pipitui plants.

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SPC TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN COMMUNICATIONS TO TONGA

official document; in a user-friendly video aimed at keeping the 10 areas relevant to a broad family audience, while informative of government policy work in the areas involved. Ms 'Ofa Guttenbeil-Likiliki and her husband Nasili Likiliki are the proud owners of Coconut Production and are the local video producers that have been hired by SPC to produce the video in the Tonga context.

Ms Lisa Williams & WDC Staff

Following the successful workshop funded by SPC on basic graphic design in 2001 conducted by Ian Rolls of RMC, a follow up activity was organized. The Communications Officer Lisa Williams of the Pacific Women's Bureau arrived in Tonga on April 27th for two weeks. She worked closely with the staff of the Women and Development Centre on the considerable steps taken to advance gender issues as per WDC's strategic plan and the National Policy on Gender and Development, and to network in-country on information outputs to advance this work. As a result SPC is funding the production of a video on Tonga's National Policy on Gender and



WDC staff with Coconut Production at work.

Development. This Tonga GAD video is aimed at publicizing the Tonga National Policy on Gender and development, with the client brief aimed at the 10 key areas. It entails mentor or counterpart training of a Tongan woman video producer in the issues covered by

the Tonga national women's machinery (government focal point) towards gender equality, the goal of the Pacific and Beijing Platforms for Action, which Tonga committed to in 1994 and



WDC Hosting for Ms Williams at the Tonga National Centre.

1995 respectively. The trialing title for the video is **'Tangata mo fafine: Tongans talk about gender,'** has the simple goal of raising awareness of the ten policy areas in the

Furthermore SPC also assisted in the implementation of the WDC website www.wdc.pmo.gov.to by providing necessary



Interview with Mr. Lopeti Taufu of Tonga Trust

programme for the development of the website which is now in effect.

It has been a great opportunity for the staff of WDC to have Ms Williams and her expertise and experience adding to enhancing our work environment. But most importantly demonstrating SPC's strong support of Gender Equality in Tonga.



Interview with Rev. Fili Lilo of the Free Wesleyan Church of Tonga

Interview with the Tonga National Youth Congress.



FIRST TONGAN TO GRADUATE FROM THE INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY IN GENEVA, SWITZERLAND.

Her Royal Highness Princess Angelika Latufuipeka Halaevalu Mata'aho Napua-O-kalani Tuku'aho, the eldest child and only daughter of the Hon. Prime Minister Prince 'Ulukalala Lavaka Ata and Princess Nanasipau'u is the first Tongan (and perhaps the first Pacific Islander too!) to graduate from the International University in Geneva, Switzerland. Princess Angelika is one of 32 students who graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Business Administration and one of five students who passed with distinctions (cum laude). She was also one of the nine recipients awarded the PHI BETA DELTA MEDALS and Certificates.

The graduation ceremony was held at the Noga Hilton Hotel in Geneva on Saturday the 24th of April. Attending the occasion were her parents and her cousins Hon. Lupepau'u Fusitu'a and Hon. Halaevalu Mohefo Tuita as well as Tonga's High Commissioner to London and the EU, Col. Fetu'utolu Tupou and Viela together with close friends and relatives flying in from London and the US.

Princess Angelika will remain in Geneva until November to continue her studies in linguistics. She has mastered the Italian and French languages and is now studying the Spanish and German languages.

NEWS FROM VAVA'U

Mrs 'Ofa Masila of the Women Development Centre who is now stationed at the Governor's Office in Vava'u reports on Activities in VAVA'U.

* Flower Arrangement Workshop 16th - 19th March 2004. The Governor's Office organized a three day workshop throughout the main Districts of Vava'u. This workshop was conducted by 'Uliti Palu of the 'Aloua Ma'a Tonga from Nuku'alofa. Participants ranged from committee members of each town to a good number of youth participants. The wife of the Governor of Vava'u Mrs 'Evelini 'Akau'ola was the guest of honour. She was amazed at the great achievement that the participants demonstrated that she encouraged those present to continue planting flowering plants for the beauty and impact it has on the individual but also on the island of Vava'u.

The program consisted of different ways of arranging flowers from decorative corner displays, to meal table displays, vases using only leaves, wedding bouquets, and flower arrangement for funerals.

* The Vava'u Development Unit of the European Union is funding a Clean Up programme in Neiafu where there is a rubbish picking day every Thursday. This programme has been running successfully with weekly meetings on Fridays with Town Officers, District Officers and Representatives from the Ministry of Health and the Governors Office. The 'rubbish picking' is carried out by the 'Otumohemohe in collaboration with the Ministry of Health. They class the rubbish into disposable and non-disposable rubbish, and recyclable rubbish and disposed at the dumping site KALAKA. There are plans to increase these efforts to the Pangaimotu area.

* TANGO or the Tonga Association for Non-Government Organizations or known in Vava'u as VANGO held their 3rd meeting for the year to discuss their Action Plan. Each group leader reported on the status of their group. To date there are 3 project proposals that are awaiting response from the New Zealand government. Also present at the meeting was Mr. Don Hunter who looks after projects in Vava'u funded by Canada.

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**Visuals from the International Women's
Day 8th March 2004.**

*Mrs Shanhai, H.E. Mr Gao Shanhai, H.E Mr Warwick Hawker &
Mrs Hawker*

Mrs Tuna Fielakepa, (Tonga National Women's Council)

Guests

*Mr. Sioape Tuiono (Vaini District Officer, Dr. Viliami Puloka, Lucy
Niu & Siosi Mafi (Reserve Bank of Tonga)*

Ms Lupe 'Ilaiu, Deputy Secretary, Prime Minister's Office

Catering Refreshments

*MOH Staff (HIV/AIDS Section) & Representative from a
Variety Women's Group*

Representative from the Rural Women's Group

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**Visuals from the International Women's
Day 8th March 2004.**

*Mrs Malia Cocker, Mrs Shanhai, H.E Mr Gao Shanhai, Hon.
Cecil Cocker (Guest of Honor) H.E. Mr Collin Hill*

Dr. Aivi Puloka (Senior Medical Officer) Ministry of Health



Mrs Ana Kavafoti (Nurses Association)

Mrs Betty Blake, Mrs Palu Falemaka, Mrs Mele Vi

Representative from different Women's Groups

Guests

Enjoying Refreshments during the Chinese Cooking Demonstration

Mrs Dorothy Fauonuku (Salvation Army)

RECIPES

TARO CAKES

4 medium sized white taros
1 onion
1 teaspoon salt
1/2 teaspoon pepper
1 egg
1 clove garlic
1 teaspoon sugar
oil

Peel, wash and grate taro. Add other ingredients except oil. Mix together and form into balls. Fry in hot oil and drain on paper.

UFI (YAM)

YAM AND TUNA CAKES

1kg yam
2 Tablespoons parsley chopped
30g 91 oz) butter
500g tuna
2 Tablespoon oil
1 onion finely chopped

Peel yam and boil until just tender. Cool and refrigerate for 1 hour. Coarsely grate the yam. Mix with the tuna, which has been boiled and flaked, onion and parsley. Heat 1/2 oil and 1/2 butter. Press the mixture with an egg lifter into a frying pan. Cook over a medium heat for 10 minutes. Turn onto a plate. Heat remaining oil and butter in same pan and slide cake back into the pan. Cook for a further 10 minutes. Serve with a green salad.

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We would welcome any contribution or Comments from our reader

Produced by

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