

TALANOA TOKTOK

Official Publication of the Pacific Conference of Churches

PCC backs anti-nuclear fight

Never again

A large, fiery mushroom cloud from the Fukushima nuclear disaster rises into a blue sky with scattered clouds. The cloud has a thick, dark stem and a large, billowing, orange and white top. Below the cloud, a body of water is visible, and in the foreground, there is a dark, sandy area with some sparse vegetation and a small red and white marker.

ON April 13, Pacific Conference of Churches staff members gathered on the foreshore in Suva, Fiji, to commemorate the anniversary of the Fukushima disaster. They also continued to support a call for Japan not to dump waste from the plant in Pacific waters.

Pacific churches have consistently called for an end to nuclear testing, arms proliferation and waste dumping.



North to South

Doctoral student interns in Pacific

A CHANCE meeting on the fringes of a climate change discussion saw Norwegian doctoral student, Miriam Ladstein move to Fiji for a year.

Since June 2022, she has worked at the Pacific Conference of Churches, helping with research in the area Ecological Stewardship and Climate Justice.

This is her second time in the Pacific after earlier research while living in a Samoan village in 2014. There she developed a keen interest in local knowledge.

Miriam is a cultural anthropologist and was struck in Samoa by the relationship between children and how they learned about the environment and cared for creation.

Her research focuses on the links between faith, spirituality, culture and traditional knowledge.



About Norway

- **Capital – Oslo**
- **Population – 5.5million**
- **Area – 384,000 square kilometres**
- **Indigenous people – Sami**
- **Industry – Oil, gas, seafood**

In 2020 Miriam was awarded an Island Lives Ocean States scholarship which allowed her to spend time in the Pacific

Part of her research looks at Climate Change and how it is a threat to Ocean Sovereignty.

Another area of the same research is how civil society and grassroot movements operate in relation to climate nexus.

The PCC was a perfect

base, given its work across churches, civil society and local communities in the area of climate justice.

Miriam was struck by the PCC approach of introducing communities to climate change conversations while not influencing the discussions.

While in Fiji, Miriam has been involved in cultural and sporting activities with PCC staff.

She will return to Norway at the end of June.

Grounding education

Eco-school curriculum takes shape

Work has started on the design of a curriculum for the Lomana Na Vulagi Eco-School.

The curriculum will be contained in a series of modules which will include:

Models of traditional
Stewardship
Theology of Creation

Organic Farming Methods
and Creating Organic
Fertiliser

Disaster Resilience Farming
Methods

Interconnectedness of
Biodiversity.

The course is designed so
that students will live on the
farm, taking part

in daily activities, learning
practical methods of farming
which can be adapted and
applied in their communities.

The first phase of the
curriculum development is
research-based and this will
be followed by consultations
with teachers and agriculture
experts.



Future plans ... farm team takes a break from planting activities

Farm plan on track

WITH the farm house
and piggery
completed, our Farm
Team has moved into
planting mode.

Root crops, kava and
vegetables have
been planted just
ahead of the winter
(cold season) rains
and two sows are
pregnant off-site.

The new piglets are
expected to be born
in June and move on
site in mid-July.

A five-year plan for
the farm has been
prepared by staff

and approved by the
Finance and Business
Committee.

How Covid-19 inspired regional youth plan

THE COVID-19 Pandemic forced the Pacific Conference of Churches
to hastily review the delivery of a course for regional youth.

Young people gathered in their own countries and were linked
through Zoom to take part in a course delivered out of Pacific
Harbour in Fiji.

This inspired management to explore ways in which to deliver courses
from a secure location and also offer a site for hands-on experience in
agriculture.

Talanoa Toktok



Child our hope ... children of participants at a Child Protection training activity in the Solomon Islands. Image - UNICEF

A LARGE portion of the Pacific Conference of Churches' work is made possible by international donor agencies and governments. The design of training manuals which set out policies to create safe churches and protect children has been made possible through funding from UNICEF.

To encourage churches to involve women in leadership within the ecumenical movement, the PCC has received financial assistance from UN Women.

Australia has supported capacity building for church leaders through the Pacific Church Leaders Meeting which allows officials to discuss issues critical to the region.



Gratitude to our donors



CHURCH funding is the financial backbone of the programmes implemented throughout the region. Brot für die Welt (Bread for the World) is a German funding agency which has supported the Pacific Conference of Churches for more than a decade.



The Methodist Church in the United Kingdom provides salaries in the area of Climate Change while Uniting World Australia supports the creation - among other areas - of Gender Equity Theology and support for empowerment of women.

Micah Australia has funded valuable training for capacity building for Pacific youth, including regular meetings with Australian political leaders.

This has been made possible through the support and coordination of the National Council of Churches, Australia.

Global Ministries in the United States has regularly provided interns to support diverse PCC programmes while the Presbyterian Church in the USA has funded specific projects on our Lomana Na Vulagi (Love the Stranger) eco-farm in Tailevu.

The PCC is extremely grateful for the support of all its funders in the provision of services and capacity building throughout the region.



micah
DO JUSTICE TOGETHER



Talanoa Toktok