

Join Us

IPMEN has a role to play in the future of marine resource management and development within the Pacific Ocean region. It should address some of the contemporary training issues. The needs in different areas should continue to be determined by the people involved but there will be similarities and the need for common solution. As long as IPMEN adheres its focus and training activities to the needs of the region and people, it will have the following and strength to motivate people to contribute to its vision.

The challenge for the future for IPMEN is to train people to break out of their compartmentalized work areas and to promote multidisciplinary thinking. Moreover, there is the need to publicise good lessons and results. What is needed is regular interactive exchanges between the network members and follow up activities.

Concepts of a multidisciplinary research and the teaching and integrated management approaches still have to be worked out, and there is no better institution to address it now, that the IPMEN given the variety of experts and institutions that it will involve in this process. In Fiji, we are dedicated to this course of action and encourage you to join this association to break down North-South barriers, South-South rivalry and disciplinary boundaries, and foster the sharing of experiences and resources to protect the health of the Pacific Ocean and the communities that depend upon it.



IPMEN 2010 Theme and Strands

Theme: *Vakarau ni se siga toka*: Marine Education in the New Millennium – Fijian idiom meaning “Prepare whilst there is time”

Conference strands include:

- **Key Challenges in Ocean Literacy:** Assessing gaps in current marine education content, projects, materials and delivery approaches (books, webinars, dvds, field excursions)
- **Building Healthy Sustainable Coastal Communities:** Integrating community-based science and traditional ecological knowledge into formal and non-formal marine education
- **Women in Fisheries: Partnerships for Change:** Understanding women’s changing roles and exploring ways to use their knowledge and skills in fisheries development and management.
- **Climate Change Impacts on Pacific Children:** Exploring the impacts of climate change and unpredictable weather patterns on the children of the Pacific and their families.

IPMEN 2010 Sponsors

Full details of IPMEN 2010 conference sponsorship packages can be found on the IPMEN 2010 website www.ipmen.net. The following organizations have already signed up as conference sponsors.

the David & Lucile Packard FOUNDATION

USP
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IPMEN 2010 Supporters

The growing list of IPMEN 2010 supporters (in-kind) includes – BriTer Solutions (Australia), Centro AquaSendas-COPAS (Chile), the Conservation Society of Pohnpei, the College of Exploration (USA), COSEE California, Firestarter (Australia), the Lawrence Hall of Science (University of Berkeley, California), the Marine Education Society of Australasia, National Marine Educators Association (USA) and the Institute of Applied Sciences at the University of the South Pacific (Fiji) and the Fiji Locally Managed Marine Area (FLMMA) network.

For Further Information:

IPMEN 2010 web site www.ipmen.net
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IPMEN

(International Pacific Marine Educators Network)

2010 Conference

7th-9th July, 2010
Outrigger On The Lagoon,
Fiji Islands



INTERNATIONAL
PACIFIC MARINE
EDUCATORS NETWORK
www.ipmen.net



Background

The International Pacific Marine Educators Network (IPMEN) is a developing group of marine educators (using the widest sense of the word) throughout the Pacific. This group began with a two day meeting on the Hawaiian island of Maui in July 2005 and gained considerable momentum at its 1st conference in Hawaii (January 2007). The second IPMEN conference was held in Townsville in 2008 and it brought together 100 educators from 18 Pacific nations and territories. IPMEN is seen as a first step towards the establishment of a worldwide network of marine educators with the aim to share knowledge, expertise and resources.

IPMEN and Human Resources in the Pacific Ocean Region

IPMEN is committed to maintain the health of the Pacific Ocean and the communities that depend upon it by formalizing a network of marine educators in the Pacific. The Pacific Ocean is home to 12 Small Island Developing States that own and are served by USP.

With a land to sea area ratio in the Pacific of 1:100, the sea is the food basket, hunting ground, recreational arena, theatre, art gallery and the highway that links Pacific Islanders to the outside world. Thus, in all of the countries of the region, human resource development must allow better understanding and the use of marine resources to allow proper management and sustainable utilization.

Human resource development in the Pacific Islands requires strategic planning, action and ingenuity. Cooperation and coordination among States, international organizations, national agencies and local community groups are needed to promote and facilitate research, collect and disseminate knowledge, information and data, and develop human resources.

Given their small, isolated and economically vulnerable positions, these nations have established organizations and instruments that represent their interests. IPMEN would be a logical extension of the collaboration that is underway in the Pacific Islands region.



Developing human resources in the Pacific Islands

Nothing has a higher priority in the development strategies of Pacific Islands than the education and training of their people. However, there are still gaps to fill because human resource needs in the Pacific Islands are varied due to the diverse activities that are required. In addition, human resource development is expensive, continuous and the needs regular assessment of its relevance. The main training problems include the costs, the magnitude of the work, the compartmentalization of responsibility into departments and the duplication of the effort.

In formulating human resource development programmes, it is important that training courses and programmes must use available expertise to understand as much as they can of the intergrated physical, biological, social and economic issues that characterize the use of the marine resources. Training must keep up with newly evolving trends while trainers need to be well versed with new developments, which can be complicated by the nature of the information and the costs involved.

IPMEN can greatly contribute to addressing this challenge. It should facilitate the establishment of linkages across the Pacific Ocean to share ideas, costs and expertise and to learn from each other's experiences. In the knowledge and information-based contemporary world we live in, there is no better way to share with experts from all relevant disciplines all over the world.

At the local level, Fiji's community based resource management initiatives have benefitted the people in the villages and have influenced policy formulation. The initiatives have improved life in the villages, protected critical coastal habitats, provided alternative sources of livelihood and complimented the initiatives that have been taken to better use the resources of the environment in accordance with sustainable development aspirations.



The Future

IPMEN should aim to reach all corners of the globe and all levels of socio-cultural organizations. Within the Pacific Ocean region, our students, Government leaders, officials and ordinary members of the communities have to be involved in training activities that enable them to address the problems and issues that are important to them. The training activities need to be tailored to meet local needs and conditions and must be relevant.

To achieve this objective, decision making involving ocean resources development and management needs to be realistic, pragmatic and based on up-to-date data. This is where good human resource development can be a useful tool. The education must be accurate, comprehensive and based on scientifically proven data. Training needs necessitate cooperation to allow the attainment of best results. Technical and financial assistance and the provision of facilities and equipment in the implementation of training programmes, courses and workshops in the marine sector is critical and will benefit from collaboration across borders.