

IPMEN Vision Statement 2008 – 2009

The International Pacific Marine Educators Network has the vision of achieving responsible and creative decisions in society via the creating of an ocean literate population throughout the Pacific and, more broadly, throughout the world.

IPMEN Mission Statement 2008 – 2009

The mission of the International Pacific Marine Educators Network is to encourage responsible and creative decisions in society by taking an active role in educating the people of the Pacific and, more broadly, the world about principles of ocean literacy. Further, the Network aims to do so by providing a collegial environment and sense of connection so that marine educators from a diverse range of backgrounds can become part of a collaborative peer group that is passionate about educating others about the marine environment.

IPMEN Vision Statement 2010

To nurture a fuller understanding of the ocean's value, leading to informed, responsible and creative decisions that seek to conserve and restore the integrity of the ocean's ecosystems in the Pacific.

IPMEN Mission Statement 2010

For IPMEN to become a leader in fostering the collaborative relationships that will lead to creation of resources, programs, training, and leadership necessary to build ocean literacy at every level of society in the Pacific region.

Post IPMEN 2010 conference outcomes and results include:

- Fiji's Curriculum Development Unit Director, Nemani Drova, attended and presented at the Conference; thereafter he wrote a proposal to his Education Minister proposing the introduction of marine science as an academic subject in Fiji's secondary schools and this has been approved. Fiji currently does not include marine education in its primary and secondary curriculum although most of the students come from coastal villages or are connected to them. In 2008 though, Fiji introduced marine studies as a tentative vocational subject in one outer-island school.
- In light of experience gained post IPMEC in Hawaii and the IPMEN '08 conference, IPMEN Point of contact person has been identified for Australia & NZ, Canada, South America, Mexico and Central America, Hawaii and US North Pacific Islands, South Pacific and Japan and development will be reviewed over time.
- New Fiji conference participants were added onto IPMEN Google Group which currently has 92 members; IPMEN Facebook group will have Monifa Fiu as a co-administrator and will also have a Spanish version with Margarita acting as facilitator.
- IPMEN International Conference Committee (all volunteers) was convened in Townsville, with those that held conferences in the past being part of that committee by default. International committee will develop an outcome report and included will be an open invitation to join International Committee and other committees.
- Jan Steffen, working through UNESCO, will identify curriculum development needs throughout the Pacific, related to marine sciences, and bring that back to IPMEN. Steffen offered IPMEN the opportunity to become part of the capacity- building program under UNESCO's Pacific cultural and natural heritage hub, which is currently under development. The hub will serve as a web portal and clearinghouse to facilitate the flow of information to educators, researchers, donors and other interested parties on publications, education and outreach resources and capacity-building projects in the Pacific Islands.
- Kerstin Forsberg who presented at IPMEN on the marine conservation efforts that her organization is actively engaged in Peru, Planeta Océano – Planet Ocean, received international recognition. She has been awarded the YouthActionNet 2010 Global Fellowship in Washington D.C. (<http://www.finland.org/public/default.aspx?Contentid=202725&contentlan=2&culture=en-US>)

- The forum concluded that there is strong need to continue to implement low-cost, easily accessible partnerships via the Network. Post 2010 Conference, there is the planned partnerships between Tim Hoile, Jan Steffen and Monique Meyers to support Mereoni Mataika's Marine Museum at Shangri-La's Fijian Resort. Also, there are discussions underway for officials from Fiji's Ministry of Education CDU to visit Cooparoo Secondary College in Brisbane who have been successfully running their marine studies programme for Years 8 - 12 for the past five years.

IPMEN 2012 conference: Chile

- Switch to Eastern Pacific – east-west dialogue!
- Major challenge for Chile will be funding – in advance of conference. Chile will be committing most of its resource to earthquake recovery over the next five years, so may not be much local funding available. International funding will probably be very important.
- Four committees will be needed:
 - International – funding
 - Local – university and other volunteers
 - Local -professional organization and logistics (may have someone identified)
 - Connectivity for distance participation
 - A few people on committee should visit Chile prior to conference for planning purposes
- What time of year and location is most convenient for both participants and hosts?
 - Year round rain in Chile
 - Location considerations: *Chiloe Island* – 2 NGOs to collaborate with (marine mammal research); *Concepcion* – good university infrastructure, moderate climate (no rain); *Coyhaique* – further south; new building for high latitude research (possible lodging option)

Lessons learned from IPMEN 2010 conference:

- Lack of funding up front was problematic (airfares were more expensive later).
- Local organizers were fundraising up to the last minute (try to secure funds much earlier for next conference).
- Everyone was a volunteer – hard to ask people to take on too much.
- International communications were sometimes challenging.
- Establishing good partnerships with hotels and venues very early on and maintaining that relationship is essential.
- For future conference organizers, important to employ a professional conference organizers if local host does not have the capacity to do the organizing themselves.

IPMEN Conferences: the future

- Future conferences should be more outcome-driven.
- Involve industry more
- Need younger IPMEN members to get more involved
- Think about possibility of *information sharing* through web or some other way, so that in-person interactions at conference can be more outcome-oriented and substantive, rather than just giving presentations in a hotel conference room.
- Convene on-line conference in intervening year between local conferences, to plan for an action-driven agenda during local conference
- There is much value in meeting people in-person, and then following up on-line and work together through web technologies
- Should IPMEN try to organization regional on-line gatherings on a quarterly basis, that can then be reported out to a larger international on-line conferences (Jan)?
- Develop a “cookbook” for conference – already in development
- Peter committed hosting webinars for IPMEN using Elluminate

Other IPMEN Networking:

- Website (Harry)
 - 2 domain names at present (www.ipmen.net and www.ipmen.org)
 - Regional networks may be useful
 - Richard Wylie - Is there a dedicated person for website development?
 - Peter Biro is current webmaster
 - Need to have a backup plan
- Database (Manoj)
 - Needs more information about people on the list
 - In process of identifying regional contacts
 - Committee is drafting guidelines for use and maintenance of database
 - Manoj requesting support for update
- Caucus online campus(Peter)
 - IPMEN Elluminate conference has a parallel on Caucus
 - COE have placed videos of 2010 conference talks in Caucus and is available via <http://vimeo.com/>
 - All of the powerpoint presentations from conferences are also available on Caucus
 - Peter will create ongoing IPMEN management room
- Natalie offered to link up IPMEN on Twitter

Note: the forum concluded that there is great value in face to face contact at regular conferences and that this form of networking should be maintained in both real and virtual formats.

Green Networking

IPMEN 2010 participants were issued flash drives which had the conference program, field trip details, IPMEN background notes and IPMEN 2008 Conference Proceedings. This was to ensure minimal use of printing materials. As well, field trips had planting of trees as part of its activities.