

Annual Report 2010

Pacific Calling Partnership (PCP)

The work of the Pacific Calling Partnership (PCP) like all the work of Edmund Rice Centre is based on the Earth Charter, a declaration of fundamental principles for building a just, sustainable, and peaceful global society.

The PCP's main activities in 2010 took place on the international stage. The year commenced with reflecting, analysing and acting on the consequences of the UN's Climate Summit 2009. The second half of the year included planning, organizing and participating in four major overseas delegations:

1. a delegation to Kiribati led by Patrick Dodson and Phil Glendenning,
2. two invited PCP observers attended Tarawa Climate Change Conference Kiribati,
3. four week speaking tour by Maria Tiimon in Germany and Austria and
4. a delegation of three Australians and three I-Kiribati participated in the UN Climate Summit in Cancun Mexico.

The work of PCP in 2010 was significantly enhanced by the increased participation of the Director of the Edmund Rice Centre, Phil Glendenning. His contribution to strategic planning, overseas delegations, mentoring and general day to day advice has had a considerable impact on the PCP's ability to work effectively towards our vision.

PCP continues to be hosted, coordinated and administered by the Edmund Rice Centre with staff, interns and volunteers providing an efficient and organised back-up to the program. The outreach is made possible by partnerships between the ERC and religious congregations and various community organizations such as:

Good Samaritan Sisters,
Catholic Education Office Wollongong,
Kiribati Climate Action Network,
Missionaries of the Sacred Heart Justice and Peace Office,
Missionary Sisters of the Society of Mary,
Climate Action Network Australia,
OXFAM,
Pacific Networking in Europe
NSW Conference of Leaders of Religious Institutes.

Coordinator	Jill Finnane
Political lobbyist and media	Phil Glendenning
Pacific Outreach Officer	Maria Tiimon
Liaison Religious Leaders, Congregations & Catholic Education Offices	Geraldine Kearney
Secretary	Marita McInerney
Researcher	Geoff Ball
Web support	Bhavya Patel
Liaison in Kiribati	Claire Anterea, Linda Uan, Pelenise Alofa, Annevi Sjöberg

Over the year at least fifteen other people have given time as volunteers, some regularly and others when available. This volunteer contribution is one of the mainstays of PCP as are the initiatives taken by the 362 subscribers to the PCP email list.

Funding: The Edmund Rice Centre received substantial donations during 2010 for the work of the PCP. One of the most exciting came out of 'Hands Across the Ocean', a well attended fund raising event in Wollongong Archdiocese organised by St Brigid's Primary School. Other significant donors included the Search Foundation, OXFAM, and numerous individuals, religious orders and organizations.

The Pacific Calling Partnership

The PCP strives to listen to and be accountable to voices from the Pacific and Torres Strait islands in their quest to raise awareness about the impacts on them, due to high greenhouse gas emissions from industrialised countries. The PCP aims to build a consensus that drives support for Australia, in partnership with our neighbours, to recognise and build on the civil, cultural, economic and environmental resilience of all countries within the Pacific region. In this way we can work towards building a positive, communitarian and sustainable response based on

Human Rights to the increased water, food, fuel and land stresses that are predicted under present circumstances and future climate change scenarios.

There is a clear power imbalance for Pacific island nations when they try to raise the need for funding for adaptation on the world stage or seek meaningful targets for mitigation of the green house gas emissions of industrialized countries. The PCP seeks to play a small role in bringing together the power of Australian organisations and influential individuals along with Pacific Island governments and communities in order to ensure that industrialized nations pay more attention to Pacific Island issues.

Report on Activities for 2010

In February 2010 the Strategic Planning Committee of PCP met over two days to plan future focuses and strategic directions for the next 3-5years. Headings in the table below reflect the directions the PCP has taken during 2010.

STRATEGY	IMPLEMENTATION
<p>Advocate for Pacific Island Migration Justice</p> <p><i>Goal: Support and Research the Federal Government's Pacific Seasonal Worker Pilot Scheme (PSWPS)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The PSWPS is seen by Kiribati as an important strategy to help Kiribati and other Pacific Island nations deal with poverty, unemployment, isolation, education, English speaking skills and long term adjustment to climate change. • Three visits to the 11 I-Kiribati workers employed under this scheme. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 1st visit, March, a 'get to know you' visit by Maria T & Tom Z, filmmaker. 2. 2nd visit, May, Maria conducted a group interview in Kiribati language on their experience of progress so far and took clothes and blankets. 3. 3rd visit, June: Maria and Marita took more clothes and blankets, built closer relationships and conducted follow up research by interviewing each worker and their supervisors separately. • PCP prepared a report for the Dept. of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations analysing the strengths and weaknesses of the pilot scheme as they appear at this stage and made recommendations to government for improvements to the scheme. • PSWPS 2010 Conference: Marita attended this valuable 3 day conference – to meet and network with government officials, the Kiribati delegation, those doing evaluations of the scheme to horticultural industry owners, approved employers, recruitment organisations and other organizations such as National Farmers Federation and Unions. <p>Outcomes: Workers started to have English lessons. Increased government awareness of improvements needed. The report issued by the Dept. of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations in December showed that there will be many improvements to the next stage of the scheme that take into account the PCP recommendations and concerns.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Portraits from the Edge: Putting a Face to Climate Change, Photographic exhibition by Jon Lewis x 3 showings during the year – University of Technology, STC Wharf Theatre and Goulburn Art Exhibition. PCP congratulates Jon on these achievements and on his recently published book by the same name. <p>Outcome: community awareness</p>

<p>Actively Promote International Action</p> <p><i>Goal: to play a constructive role in working with international organisations to increase awareness of Pacific Island climate change issues.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PCP Speaking Tour in Germany and Austria: Maria Tiimon was invited to Germany and Austria as a guest of Pacific Networking in Europe. She met with university students, church groups, and people who had connections with the Pacific. She took part in many productive discussions with vigorous questioning and exchange of ideas and did two in-depth radio interviews. Maria was a key speaker at the "<i>On the Run – European and Pacific Responses to climate change in the Pacific</i>" conference in Germany. The conference was an initiative of three organisations: Pacific Networking in Europe, the Network of Pacific Groups in Germany and the Pacific Conference of Churches (Fiji). With guest speakers from Kiribati, Fiji and from European countries the conference discussed issues related to climate change and migration for those vulnerable Pacific nations. A declaration of ten major points to be addressed was issued at the conclusion of the conference. <p>Outcomes: More awareness in Germany and Austria of climate change and Pacific Islands. In Austria, the University of Vienna will include more specific information about climate change and the Pacific Islands in courses and newsletter.</p>
<p>Ongoing School and Community Education and Research</p> <p><i>Goal: to provide high quality educational opportunities and materials on Pacific Island climate change issues.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PCP continues to receive frequent invitations from other NGO's to give presentations, run workshops and to act in an advisory capacity. This collaboration with other NGOs is mutually beneficial. It enhances PCP's work and assists us in our partnership obligations to low-lying Pacific Islands. School visits, in particular where workshops on environmental issues and climate change are requested are becoming increasingly popular. During 2010 PCP conducted around twenty workshops and seminars for varying community organizations and schools. Some examples are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Akii Taratiera and Jill gave presentations at Terrigal Uniting Church in March, * Maria and Jill gave presentations and workshops at several Regional High School social justice forums * Jill and Maria provided an information stall at events such as Sydney Law School Fair * Jill spoke to Young Environmental Lawyers fund raiser for PCP. * Phil and Maria spoke (and Maria danced) at St Brigid's Primary school Wollongong's fundraiser * Geraldine gave a presentation at Marrickville Parish event * Sulu Uota attended and presented on behalf of PCP at Sustainable Illawarra and Oxfam Australia "Sisters on Planet" Film Screening • PCP Event – April: 'After Copenhagen - Where to Now for the Pacific?' An evening of film/ presentation/sharing by the PCP delegation that went to the UN Summit in Copenhagen. • PCP Event - August: 'Putting a Break on Climate Change', PCP members shared stories about successful initiatives to raise awareness of what can be done about the effect of climate change on Pacific Islands. Reading of hand-written messages from young Tuvaluans. Research Report: Geoff Ball talked about the two negative misunderstandings about the Pacific and climate change that he has begun to address; by putting together materials that show a more positive and insightful perspective. Rebekah Hendrickson reported on her search to find a way to put that information/truth into a story that has impact. • PCP Event - October: Reflective Evening with Delegation back from Kiribati – a 350.org event. The delegation reported, reflected and discussed

	<p>with PCP members ideas for future follow up actions. Mary Felesi, a young novice from the Solomon Islands gave a presentation on key environmental problems confronting her homeland.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scrapbook archiving and promotional material: Leonie Cornell organized five sessions throughout the year of volunteers to document PCP history and issues into 3 large colourful scrap books. • PCP Website – Bhavya has helped this year in putting material on the website. The updating of the website has been limited by lack of time to prepare and send her material. • Earth Charter +10 Festival September – Sean Cleary who was part of the organizing committee and was assisted by Marita, ran the Speakers tents on the 3rd day which was a Peace and Sustainability Fair. The Festival was a celebration of the 10th anniversary of the Earth Charter and focused on living and building sustainable communities in the face of global challenges. Pacific people from various islands attended and presented. <p>Outcomes: Increasing awareness that Pacific Islands are our neighbours, that they face climate change effects. Building up a broad sense of connection with Pacific Island nations and the issues they face. Some who participate become active. Draw links between climate change, peace/conflict and development. Extended and consolidated the network. Developed more solid information backing what we do. PCP has continued to extend its credibility. Broaden the understanding of the connection with the Earth Charter. Possible Kiribati Action Research project being investigated.</p>
<p>Seek & Engage Influential Leaders</p> <p><i>Goal: to increase the profile of PCP work by reaching out to politicians and involving significant public leaders.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attendance at conferences eg CANA Annual Conference Sydney – February (6 PCP attendees), Tom Zubricki prepared a short film of Cop 15 for the conference, Phil Glendenning made a presentation and others helped with sessions and a Multicultural Leaders’ Forum on Climate Change Auburn, November. • Networking with Religious Orders, Geraldine Kearney and Maria Tiimon have taken many opportunities to inform religious congregations about PCP. • Facilitated two workshops at Santa Sabina College, as part of a large Multifaith Peace Conference ‘Other Ways - Growing Alternatives to Violence’, September. • CLRI Event May: ‘Post Copenhagen: The Road Ahead,’ Reflections/Dialogue/Action. PCP Copenhagen Delegation organised an event for the NSW Conference of Leaders of Religious Institutes. • High Profile Delegation to Kiribati: PCP organized a delegation of Australian community leaders to visit Kiribati from 30th August – September 8th 2010. Senior Australian Indigenous leader, Patrick Dodson and ERC Director Phil Glendenning led the delegation. The delegation also included representatives from Indigenous communities, the arts, media and education. • Letter writing Network: Twenty five people sent out several letters each during the year to their local member regarding different climate change issues.

	<p>Outcomes: Delegation members learned about PCP, and climate change in Kiribati. They also met many people from different islands who are affected. They have continued to tell the stories and raise awareness about the people and issues they experienced. This has greatly enhanced the profile of Pacific Island issues and also PCP's public profile. Potential for new media national/international campaign seeded. Began connections between Australian Indigenous and Kiribati leaders. Participants wrestling with the question 'What can we do?' It further consolidated PCP's relationships with Kiribati. SMSM Sisters have become more involved.</p>
<p>Actively Encourage Indian Ocean Outreach <i>Goal: to seek links in Western Australia and islands in Indian Ocean</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contact made with Maldives Representatives at Tarawa Climate Change Conference. Initial conversations about possible collaboration have been undertaken with various others.
<p>Dynamic Presence at UN Climate Summit, Cancun, Mexico <i>Goal: to take every opportunity at Cancun to highlight Pacific Island issues on the world stage</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This was a key initiative for the year and took a great deal of organizing and seeking of funds so that the Kiribati delegates could attend. PCP delegation to COP16 in Cancun, Mexico consisted of three I-Kiribati: Claire Anterea, Toani Benson and Maria Tiimon and three Australians: Phil Glendenning, Jill Finnane, Geraldine Kearney sgs. Tom Zubrycki, film maker, joined them taking the final shots for the film he is making. • The most impact and the most public way the PCP delegation was involved in at 2010 UN Climate Summit was through presenting events which was 'Carrying the message of low lying islands to Cop 16'. The PCP had three main events: one was Claire Anterea's presentation of Linda Uan's film 'Kiribati and Climate Change' at a film festival, another was held under a large canvas in the bush at Klimaforum about 50 km from the main venue. The third and main one was the official side event on the second last day of Cop16. In preparing for this event we reached out to delegates of Climate Action Network Pacific and included presenters from the Cook Islands, Tuvalu, Fiji and involved other Pacific Islanders in the final song. • The side event was described in the UNFCCC program as The Human Face of Climate Change: A matter of human rights. Our task was through story, song and dance, to reflect on and report the issues involved in dealing daily with the reality of climate change. PCP's events were successful in conveying key messages through song and dance. • Met with Mary Robinson and learnt about the Mary Robinson Foundation and its goals and approach which very much mirrors PCP's approach. Also Woman Wise Leaders and other organisations. • The outcome of the talks offered room for cautious hope. There will be a yearly Global Climate Fund, the Kyoto Protocol remains alive, and the emissions targets are no way enough but the Copenhagen levels are set as a minimum (with the capacity for them to be increased in accord with shifts in climate science). It saved the process, but not the climate or the planet. There is a pathway now to a global deal and that holds potentially some hope. <p>Outcomes: Helped maintain momentum of international focus on Pacific Islands. Provided experience, skills development and more understanding of international processes to delegates. Developed our international and Australian</p>

	networking. Inspired CAN Pacific delegates to consider doing a grand Pacific Side event in Durban. Possible funding opportunities identified.
<p>Expand Pacific Relationships</p> <p><i>Goal: to nurture and build on the relationships we have in the Pacific and seek new ones</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tarawa Climate Change Conference: PCP was honoured to receive the invitation of the Kiribati Government: Phil Glendenning and Jill Finnane represented the PCP as observers at this crucial summit. Nine other organisations were also given invitations to observe: UNFCCC Secretariat, IPCC, FAO, PIFS, SPREP, SPC, World Bank, Greenpeace/WWF and Pacific Conference of Churches. It is indeed an honour that the PCP was included in this list. The conference was a successor event to the Climate Vulnerable Forum held in Nov 2009 in the Maldives and was a major advocacy and partnership building event embedded in the overall context of global and regional (Pacific) consultations on climate change. • The resulting AMBO Declaration was a momentous achievement. The Declaration declared a resolve to move forward with a collective commitment to addressing the causes and impacts of climate change. It called for an ‘urgent package’ to be agreed at Cop 16 to assist vulnerable States on the frontline to respond to the challenges posed by the climate change crisis. It welcomed the growing commitment to increase resources for climate change financing but called on parties to make financial resources available that are new, additional, adequate, predictable and sustainable..., to establish a disaster mechanism, to strengthen institutions, to build resilience and to develop strategies directed towards protecting people displaced as a result of climate change extreme events. It called on developed countries to implement capacity building and technology transfer priorities of developing countries with priority to vulnerable States on the frontline. It called on all states to aim for concrete decisions at COP 16 towards a legally binding outcome. • Phil G in a media release said: “Although non-binding it is an important agenda-setting statement for the up-coming UN summit. So far it has been formally adopted by twelve of the represented governments. These twelve include the smaller vulnerable nations, but also Australia, New Zealand, and world economic powers: China, Japan and Brazil,” he said. • Support for climate change education in Kiribati schools: As a result of the Kiribati delegation in 2009 two schoolteachers from Wollongong are coordinating the development of a program to help educate children in Kiribati in the basics of climate change. This has been possible through a partnership with the Edmund Rice Centre, CEO Wollongong and with the support of Sustainable Schools NSW. The program is aimed to be a sequence of 5 lesson plans that could be delivered in Class 5 - 8 classrooms in Kiribati. These would be simply explaining the language of climate change with the final lesson being a "Where to from here?" The basic outcomes would be: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. For the children of Kiribati to be familiar with the language associated with climate change. 2. For the children of Kiribati to have a knowledge of how their local environment may change as a result of climate change. 3. For the children of Kiribati to be working towards adaption and the management of climate change in Kiriibati. • Maria trialing setting up a Website especially for all Pacific Islanders who are passionate about climate change. The creation of this site was to bring Pacific Islanders to work together as a team to combat climate change.

	<p>It provides a forum where PI's can work together to help bring justice and a fair deal to Pacific Island nations, make people aware of what is happening to each others islands, find better responses by sharing our own stories and our own ideas and help each other to become better informed so we can speak to our governments and communities with more knowledge.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You-tube film of Clare Anterea sending a message out to Australia on the impacts of climate change on Kiribati. • Kiribati Independence Day Celebration in Mt Druitt in July, an important gathering in which NSW Kiribati community + PSWPS workers (Robinvale) came together to celebrate their culture and enjoy themselves. Maria trained four young I-Kiribati in how to speak about the effects of climate change on their home land in the lead up to this event and two of them spoke at the event. <p>Outcomes: New level of operation as official observers at TCCC. NGO/govt dialogue opportunities. Further expanding relationship with Kiribati govt. Identified key 'players' re Pacific policy and climate change. You tube video of Phil and Claire speaking to Canadian TV in Cancun. http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y_ASd70ucKw PCP has a growing sense of its role being beyond partnership to mutuality.</p>
<p>Capacity Building within PCP</p> <p><i>Goal: to create and take opportunities to increase the competence and understanding of all involved in contributing to the work of the Pacific Calling Partnership</i></p>	<p>Every task PCP undertakes builds capacity. Specific capacity building included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mentoring and training of young I-Kiribati leaders throughout the year through email contact, delegation visits and inclusion in delegation to UN Conference at Cancun • Six attendees at Climate Action Network Australia Annual Conference. • Three attendees at Sydney Alliance Training • Three attendees at Sean McDonagh, Columban theologian and ecologist talk at Santa Sabina College. • ERC staff meetings and staff development days. • Regular PCP email that is sent to all members giving information and opportunities for action. • Regular PCP Reflection Sessions. • Providing opportunities for supported voluntary work <p>Outcomes: Emergence of a 'community of participation' Many members have developed new skills and enhanced others. Broader range of ideas and solutions.</p>