



THE FOUNDATION FOR
DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION



United Nations
Democracy Fund

The Foundation for Development Cooperation
United Nations Democracy Fund
Project No. 3791-UDF-RAP-07-170

Bottom-up Governance Leadership Program for Women in the Pacific

The United Nations Democracy Fund has tasked The Foundation for Development Cooperation to implement the *“Bottom-up Governance Leadership Program for Women in the Pacific”*. The project starts in September 2008, will run for two years, and will train women from four Pacific Islands with leadership and governance skills.

A common element in Pacific Island countries is that women have limited political power as a result of the low number of women election candidates, elected members and civic leaders. An average 2.5 per cent of parliamentarians in the Pacific region are women, compared with a world average of 17.7 per cent. In addition, of the 25 countries with the lowest percentage of women in parliament, 10 are in the Pacific region. This has a negative impact on the quality of governance but also in terms of having issues of concern to women dealt with by governments and international bodies in an appropriate and democratic manner.

In its mission to support projects that build and strengthen democratic institutions, promote human rights, and ensure the participation of all groups in democratic processes, the United Nations Democracy Fund (UNDEF) has engaged The Foundation for Development Cooperation (FDC) to implement the Bottom-up Governance Leadership Program for Women in the Pacific (BGLP) which aims to increase women's knowledge of governance and leadership in the Pacific and support bottom-up governance initiatives by women in their local communities. The project will provide an e-learning and knowledge platform to help women familiarise with governance issues and provide a series of training programs in leadership skills. The project will also fund small-scale, women's initiatives that aim at improving governance in their own local communities.

In the initial stages, FDC will be seeking applications from young and emerging women leaders from PNG, the Solomon Islands, Fiji and Tonga to participate in this project. The project will be implemented from FDC's offices in Brisbane, Australia, and Suva, Fiji Islands.

For further information contact

Dr. Vladimir Pacheco, Senior Training Coordinator and Research Fellow and BGLP Co-ordinator, FDC – vladimirpacheco@fdc.org.au

Ms. Carly Stephan, Project Officer, carlystephan@fdc.org.au

Ms. Luse Kinivuwai, Pacific Regional Representative, lusekinivuwai@fdc.org.au

Ms. Melanie Aube, Senior Operations Officer, FDC – melanieaube@fdc.org.au

Mr. Craig Wilson, Executive Director, FDC- craigwilson@fdc.org.au