

**Prepared for:
Don Hollander
Pacific Internet Partnership Coordinator**

5th October 2006

**PICISOC Pac INET Meeting in Samoa
“ICT for the Pacific”
21-26 August 2006**

**Prepared by:
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under a PIP Travel Fellowship.**

INTRODUCTION:

I was awarded a Pacific Internet Partners Travel Fellowship to attend the PIISOC PacINET meeting in Samoa between 21-26 August 2006.

The purpose of this report is to give feedback to Pacific Internet Partnership Coordinator on: what I learnt, how I will share this information and any ways that the Pacific Internet Partners (PIP) program can be improved. I understand that this report will be published on the PIP website. (www.pip.org.nz)

RESULTS/DISCUSSION:

The conference was aimed at practitioners, developers, researchers and those interested in ICT from all sectors to exchange information on the system design, enabling technologies and experiences related to the use of ICT in the pacific islands.

What I learnt: I found the conference quite informative especially in the areas concerned with internet security, networking, e-Health, risk management and rural/remote Telecommunication.

My area of most interest is how computers can be used with people with disabilities thus the presentation 'a day in the life of a enabled pacific village' that Mr Don Hollander gave at the Conference was very informative and enlightening and most relevant.

How I will share my learning: Here in the Cook Islands we have an organisation called the Cook Islands National Disability Council (CINDC) who advocate for people with disabilities and strive to make their lives more qualitative. I am particularly interested in being able to bring some of that technology to the Cook Islands so as to make the lives of people with disabilities easier. With your permission, I would like to give CINDC a copy of this report along with any relevant information pertaining to the PICISOC PacINET conference so as it may be tabled at their next meeting. I feel it will assist with increasing awareness amongst our people about what PacINET do in terms of people with disabilities.

I would also like to give The Cook Islands Government Information and Communication Office a copy of this report and also your email address, so as they can receive regular information about up coming conferences and any relevant information concerning the use of ICT in the Pacific. It is this Office that is responsible for initiating ICT in the Cook Islands.

Ways the PIP program can be improved: ICT and its uses are very new to me, in fact, it is only just this year that I have felt confident enough using a computer

to actually purchase my own. Having said this, I found that in order to get the most out of the Conference, one needed to have a certain level of knowledge about ICT and at times I felt a little overwhelmed. It would have been beneficial for the PIP program organisers to have ensured all participants had the knowledge required so as to ensure maximum benefit from the information shared at the conference. Despite this, I found the conference to contain quality and useful information, well organised and of much benefit.

I have made it a personal goal to become more familiar with ICT concepts especially its use in the Pacific region.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

With the permission of PICSOC I would like to give any relevant information from the conference to the Cook Islands Government Information and Communication Office and the Cook Islands National Disability Council so they may follow up and advance ICT in the Cook Islands

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

I would just like to take this opportunity to thank the organisers of the PIP Program and the PIP Travel Fellowship, because without their assistance, I would not have been able to attend what was a very informative Conference for me. I intend to take up the challenge of bringing more awareness about both your program and the use of ICT in the Pacific to the Cook Islands.