



PACIFIC ISLANDS FORUM SECRETARIAT

Update on activities and projects
PILON, December 2009



Outline

- Developments on regional agreements
- Pacific Plan 'regional legal infrastructure' initiative
- Regional security initiatives
- Update on Traditional Knowledge Action Plan



Developments on regional agreements

- Outstanding implementation of *Pacific Island Countries Trade Agreement*
- Fiji's request for consultations with State Parties to the *Pacific Agreement on Closer Economic Relations*
- Outstanding ratifications of the 2005 *Agreement for the Pacific Islands Forum*



Pacific Plan ‘regional legal infrastructure’ initiative

- Introduced into the Pacific Plan in 2007
- “deepen regional cooperation between the key actors in the legal sector in the region, including senior government law officers, legislative drafters and judges. Explore possibilities for regional support, including through pooling of resources and regional integration, in legal institutions and mechanisms providing legislative services, and in the areas of judiciaries, courts and tribunals.”

Regional security initiatives

- *Model Weapons Control Bill*
- Control of Ammunition Project
- *Chemical Weapons Convention* -
proposed collaboration between PIFS and
the OPCW



Traditional Knowledge Action Plan

- Regional project for 6 Forum Island Countries to develop policy and laws in relation to traditional knowledge
- Current participants:
 - Cook Islands
 - Fiji
 - Kiribati
 - Palau
 - Papua New Guinea
 - Vanuatu



Current status of participating countries

- **Cook Islands**

- Intend to formulate a TK policy and bill
- Will discuss further on national developments and areas to focus on in December consultations.

- **Fiji**

- Already have an advanced administrative process, a TK registry
- Now considering formulation of policy and law to facilitate the application of existing administrative arrangements.



Current status of participating countries

- Kiribati
 - Intend to formulate a TK policy and bill
 - Will discuss further on national developments and areas to focus on in December consultations.
- Palau
 - Focus is to assist final consultations as the Bill is currently in Congress
- PNG
 - Have completed draft policy and now consulting on formulating Bill
- Vanuatu
 - Intend to formulate a TK policy and bill
 - Will discuss further on national developments and areas to focus on in December consultations.

