

‘Supporting Learning from 0 – 8, Creating the Future’ co-hosted by PIFS, PREL, PRIDE,
UNESCO, UNICEF and SPBEA

The Chief Executive Officer/PS
Education
Country Name

Date

Dear

We are pleased to inform you of a regional Early Childhood Workshop with the theme

“Supporting Learning from 0 – 8, Creating the Future”

that is being supported by the Government of the Solomon Islands, Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS), Pacific Resources for Education and Learning (PREL), Pacific Regional Initiatives for the Delivery of basic Education (PRIDE), UNESCO, UNICEF and SPBEA. This is aligned to the resolution of Ministers of Education for development partners to work together for the provision of quality education for the Pacific. **The workshop will be held from 26 – 30 March 2007 in Honiara, Solomon Islands.** The workshop venue is being organized by the Solomon Islands Government and representatives of the government will meet all the participants on arrival in Honiara and transfer them to their hotels.

The status quo in most of our countries in the Pacific is that while governments support the development work being done for this age group there is little government activity therein. The activities are mainly organized and coordinated by the NGOs, most often preschool teacher associations. This workshop attempts to bring these NGOs and Government officials together to discuss national, regional and global Early Childhood issues with the aim to develop strategies for the enhancement of environments that are conducive to the development to full potential of the Pacific Child. The workshop will bring together policy makers and NGOs representatives who are active in the area of education and support of children between the ages of 0 – 8. The objectives of the workshop are:

1. Reconfirming the importance of 0 – 8 years olds’ learning and lived experiences.
2. Getting government policy makers and practitioners of 0 – 8 years olds education to commit to develop vision, policy, curriculum and conducive learning environment for this age group.
3. Strengthening of national and regional networking amongst 0 - 8 practitioners.
4. Sharing assessment techniques used for 0 -8 years olds.

The outcomes/outputs of the workshop will include:

- the publication of a book as part of PRIDE’s Pacific Education Series arising from the presentations, discussions and resolutions,
- the development of follow-up strategies by each of the partners to support countries realize the commitments made at the workshop.

As far as possible each country will be invited to nominate one government and one NGO participant. The workshop organizers will provide airfares and DSAs [US\$100 per night for accommodation, meals, transfers and incidentals]). Please note block bookings for participants

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are being organized by the Solomon Islands Ministry of Education and participants will not be allowed to move to other accommodations. Accommodation costs will be deducted from DSAs.

The **government nominee** should be conversant with 0 – 8 year olds development and associated activities of the country. More importantly, the government participant should be a policy maker who is in a position to commit to work with NGOs to consolidate the work amongst 0 – 8 years in your country. It is important that the right persons are nominated to attend this workshop so that EFA goal 1 related to this age group is addressed jointly by the government and NGO representatives.

We are also writing separately to identified ECCE NGOs in your country to nominate a participant for this workshop.

Please provide us with the name of your nominee to represent your Ministry/Department involved in the education of children from 0 – 8 year olds in your country. We would like the person's full name as it appears on his/her passport to expedite travel arrangements. This can either be faxed to Ms Roshni Mala on fax number (679) 3302898 or emailed to her at rmala@spbea.org.fj and to Ms Tosi Mata'utia on fax number (685) 26593/22253 or emailed to her at tosi@unesco.org.ws.

Government participants are asked to make a 5 minute presentation on the government's position with regards the education and development of children between 0 – 8 years. The NGOs are being asked to make a 5 minute presentation on their activities. Templates are provided for these purposes and participants are asked not to deviate from them. Attached are requests for data from UNESCO that we request your participant to complete and bring to the workshop.

We look forward to having fruitful discussions and sharing of ideas for the betterment of our children.

Yours faithfully,

Richard Wah
Workshop Coordinator
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On Behalf of development partners (PIFS, PREL, PRIDE, UNESCO, UNICEF and SPBEA)
cc.

PRIDE National Coordinators
UNICEF Field Offices
UNESCO NatCom