

# Pacific Region Infrastructure Facility – PRIF

## NEWSLETTER

Issue 1, June 2009

Dear Colleagues

Several months have passed since our inaugural workshop in Brisbane, and the PRIF partners<sup>1</sup> have been busy on several fronts. Through this newsletter, we hope not only to bring you up to date on progress with establishing the PRIF, but also to invite your comment on any of the plans and activities. Unfortunately, one of our ambitions – establishing an active PRIF website – is still some way off from becoming a reality. So in the meantime, please feel free to email any comments to our full-time Coordinator, Lynn Pieper, on [lpieper@optusnet.com.au](mailto:lpieper@optusnet.com.au). She will make sure they are passed on to the relevant people, and acted on.

## Designing the PRIF

This is probably the most important task we have at this early stage of PRIF's development, and we are pleased to report we are well on track. A multi-disciplinary design team has been recruited, and has been working since late January identifying issues and options for the design of the PRIF, including a range of potential models for its governance, structure and management.

The design team's thinking is certainly pushing a number of boundaries, forcing us all to think innovatively about the factors that will spell success for PRIF across this diverse region and to really hone in on how the PRIF can make a difference compared with other forms of infrastructure support that are available.

The design team is busy finalising a PRIF concept document and preparing to move into the design phase of PRIF. During the design phase the design team will be consulting with a representative group of stakeholders – mainly key government officials in Pacific island countries and key officials within regional organisations and PRIF partner agencies. It is expected that these consultations will occur in July and August 2009. Following these consultations the design team will produce an initial version of the design document. PIC representatives will then be invited to discuss this document at a workshop similar to the one held in Brisbane late last year. The workshop is currently tentatively scheduled for **27-28 August 2009** and invitations will be sent out very soon. The design team will incorporate feedback from the workshop to form the final design document. According to current planning, the final design should be approved in November this year.

### *Introducing the PRIF Design Team:*

**Peter Deacon**, Team Leader

**John Mellors**, Institutional Specialist

**Sara Webb**, Monitoring & Evaluation Specialist

**Lynn Pieper**, PRIF Coordinator

<sup>1</sup> ADB, AusAID, NZAID and the World Bank Group (World Bank & IFC)

## The Pacific Infrastructure Advisory Centre (PIAC)

One of the key outcomes of the November workshop was a consensus that PRIF should establish a mechanism for providing technical and other advisory support, as soon as possible. You will recall that an interim facility (PIAC) was designed to enable such support to commence in advance of the full PRIF design. Hopefully you all received a copy of the PIAC concept paper before Christmas but, if not, please contact Lynn Pieper to obtain a copy.

ADB has kindly offered to take the lead in establishing and coordinating management of the interim PIAC. A PIAC manager has been identified, and is expected to commence in July/August 2009. Our intention is that the PIAC team will work out of ADB's Sydney Office during this interim period until the full PRIF design is endorsed.

## Establishing a Secretariat

The PRIF partners are in the process of establishing a small Secretariat, which will work on behalf of the PRIF Infrastructure Working Group and its Senior Management Team. The World Bank has kindly offered to take the lead in recruiting for the Secretariat, and then providing the day-to-day supervision of its work. Candidates for the secretariat positions have been identified and it is expected that the Secretariat will be operational in July 2009. The Secretariat will be housed in the World Bank's offices in Sydney.

## A Communications Strategy for PRIF

The PRIF partners have now also agreed on a strategy for ensuring all interested stakeholders are regularly informed and able to contribute ideas to the PRIF's progress and development. This newsletter is a first step, and we hope to continue by providing you with brief, regular updates in this form. Also, we intend to establish a PRIF website soon after the Secretariat is staffed and operational.

## The PRIF Pipeline

The PRIF partners have now approved a pipeline of activities that will receive funding support before the end of June this year, and are working on building the pipeline for 2009/10. The approved activities will include both technical assistance and investment projects, and will be those already identified as priorities in country level discussions involving one or more of the PRIF partners. In some cases, they will be activities that are already being implemented that would benefit from expansion or extension. In all cases, the PRIF partners have been assessing the extent to which the activities comply with the agreed PRIF principles, and the extent to which they are expected to yield improved outcomes through being managed under the PRIF umbrella.

## Key Dates

PRIF Workshop for PICs – tentatively scheduled for **27 & 28 August 2009, Brisbane.**

The logo for the Asian Development Bank (ADB), consisting of the letters 'ADB' in white on a dark blue square background.

Australian Government  
AusAID

The logo for New Zealand's International Aid & Development Agency (nzaid), featuring a stylized red wave above the text 'nzaid' in green, with 'New Zealand's International Aid & Development Agency' in red below.