



PACIFIC DISABILITY FORUM

Media Release

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All human rights for all persons with disabilities

The Pacific Disability Forum (PDF) in partnership with the International Disability Alliance (IDA) is conducting a Pacific BRIDGE Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), Post 2015 and Inclusive Development (BRIDGE) training at the Tanoa International Hotel in Nadi from 14 to 20 May 2016.

Participating at the training are Disable People Organisation's office managers and representatives from Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Republic of Marshall Islands, Solomon Islands, Samoa, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, and members of PDF Resource team and staff.

In opening this regional training, PDF CEO Mr. Setareki Macanawai reminded participants on the reason why they are at the training.

"We are here to learn how we can do our work better and turn the tide about disability work in the Pacific", said Mr. Macanawai.

Mr. Macanawai emphasised the need for DPOs to stretch their reach and ensure that no one is left behind.

"We are true to the claim 'all human rights for all persons with disabilities'. We as DPOs must reach far and wide to ensure that all human rights for all persons with disabilities are recognised, protected and enjoyed", he said.

He highlighted that in order for this to happen it should start at home by ensuring that we are different in our approach towards the inclusion of persons with disabilities.

"As representatives and office managers of DPOs across the region we are to be different in the way we include all persons with disabilities", he said.

Mr. Macanawai emphasised the need for DPOs to be strategic in their approach and improve their practice. He further highlighted that we have grown in the past few years and come a long way.

“We have come a long way with significant achievement over the years, let’s further improve our practice and think strategically about our approach. PDF’s new strategic plan is a step up from the current one, in ensuring all human rights of all persons with disabilities are included”, he said.

Mr. Macanawai thanked all stakeholders in ensuring that Pacific DPOs are part of this BRIDGE training.

The training will support DPOs develop an inclusive and comprehensive CRPD perspective on development, including the sustainable development goals (SDGs) to reinforce their advocacy for inclusion and realisation of rights of persons with disabilities.

BRIDGE is an initiative of the IDA and the International Disability and Development Consortium (IDDC) to respond to the growing demands of the trainings on CRPD implementation, inclusive development and links with 2030 Agenda/SDGs.

Meanwhile, the Pacific BRIDGE program is a partnership between PDF and IDA with the financial support from Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and technical support from CBM Australia and Disability Rights Fund.

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