Media Release: Gender advocates to attend Adaptive Leadership Training



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Suva – Strengthening the voices and views of Pacific women and better representing their interests at the regional and global level is the objective of a pilot Adaptive Leadership Training to be held in Fiji this week.

The program will be conducted by the Pacific Leadership Program (PLP), in partnership with Pacific Women Shaping Pacific Development (Pacific Women), initiatives of the Australian Government.

Adaptive Leadership Training equips change makers with the skills needed to make positive change on important issues, often in challenging and uncertain environments. It will assist participants to take Pacific gender equality agendas to local and global political fora with renewed clarity, energy and impact.

According to the Australian High Commission's First Secretary Gender, Suzanne Bent, "The pilot-program brings together government and civil society representatives from three countries – Fiji, Papua New Guinea and Samoa, as well as participants from key regional organisations. Representation from minority groups is a priority and we have ensured the inclusion of advocates from young women, sexual minority and disability rights groups."

Participants include regional members of the Pacific Beijing Platform for Action Civil Society Organisation steering committee and civil society representatives who attended the 2015 Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) meeting held earlier this year.

This training will also inform Pacific Women's work with coalitions and civil society organisations across the region, supporting women's leadership and representation of women's interests.

PLP's Adaptive Leadership trainings have been developed over several years in partnership with the United States -based Cambridge Leadership Associates at Harvard University, and tailored to respond to the challenges and needs of Pacific Island leaders.

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About PLP

The Pacific Leadership Program (PLP) is a regional governance initiative of the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade that recognises the pivotal role leadership plays in development. PLP aims to build, apply and share knowledge on 'developmental leadership', that is, leadership involving collective action to bring about locally owned, inclusive change for the public good.

PLP identifies influential individuals, organisations and coalitions in the Pacific and supports them in their exercise of developmental leadership. PLP acknowledges that developmental leadership is political and complex, and requires flexible and adaptive approaches that take into account context, agency and history. PLP supports developmental leadership efforts in regional organisations and at national and sub-national levels in Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu.