



DEMOCRACY IN THE PACIFIC:
REGIONAL STUDY SESSION 2006

YOUNG PEOPLE NEGOTIATING
CITIZENSHIP, IDENTITY & GLOBALISATION

RUATORIA, AOTEAROA/NZ

24-28 APRIL 2006



Pacific Study Session 2006

24-28 April, Ruatoria/Gisborne, NZ

Introduction

The Study Session is a chance for a group of people to come together for a short time (five days) and take the time to look at some issues together.

The time together is about learning from each other - sharing stories and thinking about ways to apply the learning in the places people come from.

Participants of the Study Session will come out with fresh ideas, inspiring stories and plans for how to make a more effective impact in their part of the planet. What those plans and learnings look like will be different for each person and opportunities to share experiences after the Study Session will be encouraged.

Diversity is important, the event has no party political, religious bias or other sectarian agenda. It is designed to be a time of informal sharing and learning from each other and invited 'experts' who have some experience in areas of interest connected to the themes of the Study Session.

What is the Pacific Centre for Participatory Democracy?

The primary purpose of the Pacific Centre for Participatory Democracy (PCPD) is to research and articulate issues related to access and participation in democratic systems and to make evidence-based information and resources accessible to interested stakeholders.

The Centre aims to provide resources and robust information from a non-governmental perspective on ways that organisations, structures and systems can improve participation by the public and the integration in decision-making of interests from minority groups.

Established in 2005 as an initiative of [Te Aka Ora Charitable Trust](#) and based in Gisborne, New Zealand, the Centre plans to grow slowly and over time increase the scope of activities - initially it provides an information service and training opportunities. Within two years it is expected to include significant action research capabilities, networking coordination and consultancy services for organisations interested in developing best practice systems and approaches with regards to democratic participation in public life.

At present an Advisory Group of individuals with specific expertise from around the world contribute policy and programme development advice to the Centre.

Study Session Goals

Organisers aim to bridge theory and practice, action and reflection by providing a platform for the considered exchange of opinions, inter-cultural and inter-generational dialogue while enhancing youth leadership, local activities and regional networking.

The two primary goals of the Study session will be:

1. To identify the relationships between the principles and practices of democracy and notions of identity, nationhood and culture;
2. To plan and implement initiatives that will address these issues through constructive, sustainable and innovative strategies at local, national and/or regional levels.

The Study Session aims to target participants who are from communities and organisations that will benefit significantly as a result of the participant's involvement in the Study Session.

Subsequently participants are expected to:

- add value to the activities of their local community, organisation and networks by making an increased contribution to their organisation and/or community as a result of participation;
- identify opportunities for multiplying the learning and benefits they experience as participants in the Study Session for citizens in their home country.

The project will provide selected youth leaders, their organisations and projects with training and support in developing their activities and capabilities. As such this activity does not only involve the participants but has a multiplying effect for other members of the participating communities, organisations and networks.

Expected Outcomes & Benefits

Expected Outcomes

The Study Session content, format and follow-up activities are designed to build the capabilities of participants and subsequently the capacities of their communities, organisations and networks.

Participants are expected to have increased their::

1. knowledge and understanding of the relationships between the principles and practices of democracy and notions of identity, nationhood and culture;
2. skills to plan and implement initiatives that will address these issues through constructive, sustainable and innovative strategies at local, national and/or regional levels.

The follow-up activities to the Study Session will include:

- initiatives and projects planned by participants as part of the Study Session;
- an internet-based forum and online community;
- based on the evaluation and outcomes, the possibility of similar events within the target region;
- a reference document of resources, papers and reports from the Study Session participants and facilitators/presenters.

Expected Benefits

The capability and capacity building benefits from the project are three-fold:

1. The immediate impact on the participants understanding of the issues and skills to undertake constructive work and ongoing discussion related to the themes;
2. The medium term impact on the communities, organisations and networks that participants are connected to through increased knowledge and activity related to the themes;
3. The general medium to long term benefits to democratic governance and participation in the target countries through an increase in active citizenship as result of benefit multiplication from participants to their communities.

Sustainability

Participants will be selected partly on their ability to transfer and multiply learnings and on a demonstrated commitment to the issues addressed by the Study Session. Findings of the event evaluation that demonstrate positive outcomes for participants and their communities/organisations may lead to similar events being planned for the future. It may also be further decentralised for each sub-region as needed and additional resources permit.

Evaluation

An evaluation process has been designed and built into the project that includes participants, sending organisations and sponsors/funders.

Working Language

The working language of the Study Session will be English. All participants must be able to work in English. Please do NOT apply if you are not able to competently communicate in English. The organisers regret any barriers this presents for potential participants.

Profile of Participants

Resources for any event like this one are limited and previous experiences indicate that 25-40 participants are an optimal number for an initiative such as this.

Selection will be through an open invitation to young people from around Aotearoa and the South Pacific. At the study session it is anticipated that at least 24 participants will be living in Aotearoa and 24 international delegates will be from other countries (depending on the level of sponsorship we have secured).

The project is designed primarily for young people actively involved in NGOs, youth organisations, grass-root initiatives and community organising.

Participants should be:

- supported by an organisation, faculty, church, student body, local authority or network;
- able to communicate and work in English; and
- aged between 17 and 30 years old;
- available and able to participate in the full residential programme and follow-up activities.

Priority Criteria for Selection

Participants will be selected on the basis of the quality of their application and on the basis of the following criteria:

1. Personal motivations for participation;
2. Potential to act as multipliers of the study session activities and outcomes;
3. Gender and age balances;
4. Geographical spread;
5. Diversity of academic, professional and organisational backgrounds.

Note: Applications from young people who have attended similar international events and programmes are welcome but will take a lower priority as the organisers are keen to provide new experiences for participants who have not had similar opportunities before now. Participants from New Zealand will be selected based on the same criteria as international delegates however of the 24 places reserved for participants from Aotearoa, 12 will be from the Tairāwhiti region and a mix of participants from urban, rural, metropolitan and provincial locations will be selected.

International Participants

A small number of participants from the South Pacific may be eligible for subsidised travel costs and registration fees. Participants who can raise the support to travel from their government or private sources are encouraged to contact the organisers via an email to: ss@pcpd.org.nz

Limited places exist for both subsidised and non-subsidised places.

International participants who arrive a few days before or stay a few days after the event due to travel arrangements and/or an interest in spending extra time in the country, may be able to stay with local families in Gisborne city and once travel arrangements are finalised this option can be confirmed. Any additional costs associated with this option will be at the participants expense.

Costs of travel, meals and accommodation

Event Fees: A registration fee of NZ\$100 payable on arrival includes accommodation, meals and participation in the Study Session programme and associated special events.

Participants are encouraged to request their sending organisation to cover the cost of this participation fee. In special cases participants may ask for partial waving of the participation fee which will be dependant on the situation of the participant and available funds.

Travel Costs: In addition, some participants from outside New Zealand are entitled to the full or partial reimbursement of their travel expenses for the return journey from their place of residence to Gisborne under the conditions set out by the organisers.

New Zealand Based Participants: Travel subsidies of up to 75% of the cost of travel will be available to most participants who live in Aotearoa.

Travel Insurance: It is the responsibility of each participant to decide whether or not they require Travel Insurance in case of sickness, accident or loss of property, and to make their own arrangements for this. The organisers of the event cannot cover costs of medical treatment or replace lost or stolen property.

Candidates should send their completed application forms by email to:

Manu Caddie : ss@pcpd.org.nz

or by airmail to:

Event Registrar
Pacific Centre for Participatory Democracy
PO Box 3072, Kaiti
Gisborne
AOTEAROA / NEW ZEALAND

Applications should be sent in time to arrive before 5pm, 24 February 2006.

Submitting an application provides no guarantee of acceptance. Incomplete applications may be declined. Successful applicants will be notified no later than 10 March to allow time to apply for passports, visas/permits, organise travel arrangements, etc.

Financial Subsidy (Support) for travel costs

1. State the amount of your travel costs from your place of residence to Gisborne in New Zealand dollars. The amount should include the cost of return travel. Irrespective of the means of transport used, participants will be reimbursed on the basis of the shortest and least expensive route between their place of residence and Gisborne:

TRAVEL COSTS NZ\$ _____

2. Indicate the amount that you wish to be reimbursed by the organising committee: NZ\$ _____

NOTE: Participants are strongly encouraged to seek further support from their organisations, local government or other funding sources. The decision regarding the amount of travel reimbursement will be made by the organising committee and the decision will be final.

Assistance with Visa Procedures

If you are accepted to participate in this conference, will you require assistance in obtaining a visa for visiting Aotearoa / New Zealand?

YES / NO / NOT SURE

If **YES** or **NOT SURE**, please visit the NZ Immigration Service website to **check if you are eligible** to visit:

<http://www.immigration.govt.nz/migrant/stream/visit/visitors/canivisitnz/>

and for **steps on how to apply** for a Visitors Permit or Visa:

<http://www.immigration.govt.nz/migrant/stream/visit/visitors/Howdoiapply/thesteps/>

including the **Visitor Application Form**:

<http://www.immigration.govt.nz/migrant/stream/visit/visitors/LinkAdministration/FormsAndGuidesLinks/ApplicationForVisitingNewZealandForm.htm?level=3>

NOTE: Study Session organisers can provide a Visitor Sponsor Form if required as evidence of the purpose for your visit and guarantee of your arrangements to return home again.

The NZ Immigration Service can be very frustrating to deal with at times and while we will try to work with them around any specific concerns they may have, Study Session organisers cannot guarantee that a Visa or Visitors Permit will be provided to any individual participant invited to attend the event.

7. *Please write 300-400 words on your current thinking about the issues of democracy, identity, citizenship and/or globalisation.*

Please return this application form preferably by e-mail to arrive before:

5pm, 24th February 2006 (NZ).

To: **Manu Caddie**

e-mail: ss@pcpd.org.nz

or

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Pacific Centre for Participatory Democracy
PO Box 3072, Kaiti
Gisborne
AOTEAROA / NEW ZEALAND

www.pcpd.org.nz

Please note that submitting the application form is not a confirmation of acceptance to participate in the course. Applicants accepted for participation will be informed by the organisers by 10th March 2006.