Effective Public-Private Dialogue for Pacific Island Countries

IMF Pacific Islands Conference Apia, Samoa

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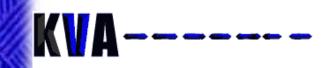
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Public-Private Dialogue (PPD): The Operating Environment

- Effective PPD limited by misconceptions, miscommunications and misunderstanding
- Private sector viewed as self-serving and greedy
- Public sector viewed as inefficient, slow and protective of its power and position
- PPD is a forum that allows communication/negotiation/ discussion between government and private sector





Regional Public-Private Dialogue

- Pacific Islands Private Sector Organization (PIPSO) established in 2005 by Pacific Islands Forum Economic Ministers' Meeting
- Product of vision and policies of Forum Leaders
- Fundamental Premise private sector is a key partner to governments in the process of national and regional development
- Members are National Private Sector Organizations (NPSOs) of the 14 PICs
- Principal objective is "to foster and facilitate PPD and to ensure achievement of common goal of member countries and of the Pacific Plan for sustainable economic growth for all"
- PIFS, UNDP Pacific Centre and Pacific Leadership Program (PLP) as key partners to PIPSO





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Examples of Regional PDD facilitated by PIPSO and Partners

- 1st Regional Pacific Islands Business Forum, August 2007, in Nadi (PIFS and UNDP)
 - Attended by regional business leaders, Ministers responsible for Trade & Business Development as well as private sector representatives & senior officials (FICs) and multilateral organizations
 - Regional Economic Integration- Opportunities and Challenges in the private sector
 - Trade Agreements A Barrier or Facilitator for Island Exports?
 - Raising Private Investor Confidence through Improvements to the Business Climate
 - Competitiveness & Export Development
 - Linking Goods to Markets
 - Competitiveness & Competition in Telecommunications sector



Examples of Regional PDD facilitated by PIPSO and Partners

- Small, Micro & Medium Enterprises Forum, Apia, October 2008 (in partnership with EU/BIZCLIM)
 - Strengthening Private Sector Collaboration
 - Who Benefits and How?
 - Adapting Financing Tools to suit the Needs of SMMEs
 - Creating and Exploring Opportunities for Growth/Breaking Boundaries
- Workshop on 'Economic Opportunities for Pacific Women in Business', Port Vila, March 2010
 - Celebrating advances made on women's economic empowerment and examining ways of overcoming obstacles and finding practical solution to advance entrepreneurs' participation in global economy





Examples of Regional PDD facilitated by PIPSO and Partners

- Annual Private Sector Dialogue with Forum Leaders (in partnership with PIFS)
 - First dialogue (Port Vila) in August 2010 'Access to Finance'
 - Second dialogue (Auckland) in September 2011 'Role of the Private Sector in Driving Sustainable Economic Growth and Creating Employment Activities'
- PPD for Micronesian Countries (FSM, Palau and Marshall Islands) in Chuuk, November 2011 (in partnership with PLP)
 - Inaugural workshop attended by private sector representatives and Ministers of Commerce and officials
 - Focused on PPP opportunities in areas of power utilities & telecommunications, shipping & air transport, and trade facilitation.



National PPD

- In small PICs, family, business and political relationships are intertwined and difficult to ignore
- Private sector organizations perceived as self-serving, focusing solely on profit of a few, and ignorant of wider social development issues
- Government coordination sometimes lacks understanding of private sector
- NPSOs perceived as not fully representative of private sector interests, including SMMEs
- Private sector inputs to public policy discussions not technically strong or evidence based
- Governments' approaches to dialogue often perceived as just 'a ticking the box' exercise
- NPSOs often do not have capacity to make timely & informed contributions to a wide variety of Government mechanisms



Lessons Learned – Promoting Sustainable Growth and Building Resilience

- Strong and Visionary Leadership (Economic and Financial Reforms)
- Macroeconomic Stability
- **Good Governance** (public and private sector)
- Political Will to Engage with Non-State Actors (NPSO, Civil Societies)
 - Depth of PPP Dialogue
- Informed Policy Advice
 - Professional, Competent and Politically Neutral Public Service
- Capacity Building and Funding
 - NPSO, PIPSO, CSO



Examples of Public-Private Partnership -Samoa

- Economic Reforms and Financial Liberalization (1994 to 2000)
- Reform in the Public Works Department
- Petroleum Bulk Purchasing
- Privatisation and Regulation of Telecommunications





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