

A first for museums

Seed-funding of \$18,000 from ICEAPS for an Asia-Pacific heritage project has attracted a further \$100,000 in contributions for the initiative and established a code of ethics for museums in the Pacific Islands region.

Pacific Museums in Sustainable Heritage Development Project which was run through Asia-Pacific Week at the ANU in February 2005, attracted world-wide additional funding. The project brought together 39 specialists including the regions' museum directors and curators.

Project Director, Professor Amareswar Galla said as a result of the sound basis provided by the initial grant from ICEAPS, the project manager was able to secure additional direct funding from the following sources:

- Commonwealth Foundation, London through the Commonwealth Association of Museums, Calgary - \$15,500
- Swedish International Development Agency through the International Council of Museums, Paris: \$13,300
- UNESCO, Apia Office: \$13,100
- ARC Asia-Pacific Futures Network: \$3,000
- ANU Asia Pacific Week: \$9,000

Professor Galla, who heads the Graduate Studies in Sustainable Heritage Development program in the Research School of Pacific and Asian Studies said the grant further attracted sponsorship in kind, including travel, accommodation expenses, professional fees and contributions to the value of approximately \$46,300. Those institutions that provided in-kind support for the project were:

- Australian Museum, Sydney
- Queensland Museum, Brisbane
- British Museum, London
- UBC Museum of Anthropology, University of British Columbia, Vancouver
- National Preservation Office, National Library of New Zealand, Wellington
- Museums Australia
- ICOM Australia
- National Library of Australia
- Casula Powerhouse Art Centre and Liverpool Regional Museum



Museum directors from Pacific Islands countries attend a sustainable heritage session in Asia-Pacific Week.

- CommonGroundGroup, Melbourne
- Pacific and Regional Archive for Digital Sources in Endangered Cultures (PARADISEC), Melbourne University
- Museum Studies Program, University of Queensland
- Taiwanese Cultural Representative, Canberra. Mayor of Taitung City, Taiwan
- Austronesian Heritage Park, Taiwan
- ANU Computer Science, Faculty of Engineering and Information Technology.

Summing up the outcomes of the project, Professor Galla said these included:

1. Statement on the prevention of Illicit traffic in cultural property with a future research and development plan
2. Pacific code of ethics for museums and research
3. State of the nation reports
4. Election of a Board of Governance for the Pacific Island Museums Association
5. Digital Heritage Preservation Plan

ICEAPS grant of \$18,000 attracts another \$100,000 for heritage project

He said a pre-workshop capacity-building exercise in Samoa was totally resourced by the Swedish International Development Agency through the International Council of Museums, Paris to the tune of \$63,300 in July 2005.

This was followed up by a contribution from the ANU Computer Science, Faculty of Engineering and Information Technology in February 2006.

Professor Galla said a final report in print and CD sponsored by Swedish International Development Agency at \$13,600 will be launched on 28 May 2006 at the ICOM Advisory Committee Meeting Salle XVIII, UNESCO Headquarters in Paris.