

## Programme

09:00-09:40 Registration and Pedium

09:45 -10:00

- Call to order by MC - Secretary
- Welcome by the PIRF Deputy Chairman

10:00 -10:15

Welcome Speech by SPF Executive Director.

10:15 -10:30

Keynote speech (Chair)

10:30 -10:35

- Break into Groups

10:35 -10:50 (15 mins)

- Sempai Speech (Ms. Ruby Ah Yuk)

10:50 -11:00 (10mins)

- Session I Introduction

11:00 - 12.00 (60 mins)

- Session I: "Challenges to Cultural Integration"

12:00-1300 LUNCH BREAK

13:00 -13:15

- Housekeeping Matters & Intro to Session II

13:15 - 13:30 (15mins)

- Sempai speech (Dr. William Tongamp)

13:30 - 14:40

- Session 2 : "Birds of a Feather"

Group Discussion and report back to main plenary (70 mins)

14:40-14:55 AFTERNOON TEA

- Registration continues while PIRF organizers group reports for the incorporation into the draft Communiqué. This will be compiled by selected member (s) through session 3.

14:55-16:30 Presentation on Session I & II

- Continue discussions from Session I and 2 and final preparations
- 15mins x4 presenters, Q&A
- 1 Moderator PIRF or other student speakers

16:30-17:00

- Closing Remark, Reminders and Prayer - PIRF Chairman

(Reminder of JAIPAS Symposium the following afternoon currently schedule for 13:30- 15:00 )

MOVE TO RECEPTION

- The Asia Center of Japan, 1st Floor, Restaurant Fuji

19:00-20:30

- Reception

### Contact

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ISLAND STUDENTS ASSEMBLY  
太平洋諸島学生集会  
Wednesday, May 20, 2009  
Tokyo



Programme  
&  
Messages

*Established*  
*Saturday, November 8, 2008 at the*  
*Sasakawa Peace Foundation*  
*Nippon Foundation Building, Tokyo*

## Message from PIRF Members:



**Kunio Suenaga (FSM)**  
Deputy Chairman  
Utsunomiya University

A long time ago, our ancestors sailed magnificent voyaging canoes in search of adventure wealth, and new frontiers. In due course, they inhabited some of the remotest parts of the world. Times have changed since then. The once magnificent voyaging canoes are now slowly becoming but icons of the past. But in its place, the ocean that once challenged our ancestors has given us a new identity. Today, in the wake of our ancestors, we set upon a new journey; a journey to build a Pacific Island Community here in Japan.

The remoteness and small size of our islands offer little room for commercial expansion. Rising sea temperature is destroying marine habitat along with the food source which many islanders depend on. Low atoll dwellers find high waves eroding their land piece by piece. Movement towards rural area is futile because what little job there exists is quickly saturated. Some move out of the islands in search of education, never to return due to lack of opportunity. These are but a few of the problems we face in our islands. Raising awareness is one thing. Tackling issues with a few heads is another thing. ISA aims to achieve both, and more.



**Fononga Vainga Mangisi-Mafile'o**  
(Tonga)  
Secretary  
Keio University

The origin of PIRF in 2008 were borne out of a strong vision to create a forum of young Pacific Island school-ars currently studying in Japan to share and disseminate ideas and knowledge of what is perceived to be some of the pertinent and specific issues facing the Pacific Islands, Japan, and the greater Asia-Pacific region.

May 20th, 2009 will mark the inaugural meeting of the Island Students' Assembly. With Pacific Island student numbers in Japan estimated around 50, forty of which have pre-registered to attend. First-ever of its kind, the exciting event hosted by PIRF and funded by the Sasakawa Peace Foundation, will congregate undergraduate and graduate students alike from as far flung as Hokkaido to Okinawa, in Tokyo for a 1-day event appropriately themed "Networking for the future." It is a great opportunity to meet fellow students, ex-students, faculty, and other professionals under one roof and catch-up, find out the latest in Pacific Island issues, and island student affairs.



**Michael Lovave (PNG)**  
Member  
Tohoku University

Pacific Islands Researchers Forum (PIRF) was formed by six like-minded postgraduate students from the Pacific Islands who are currently in Japan for studies. This is a forum formed by Pacific Islanders to serve the interests of the Pacific Island communities in Japan especially students, as well to promote Pacific Islands interest through collaboration and research activities. Through this forum, the concerns and voice of the Islanders can be heard and information disseminated through Japan and the world over. Forums like this can connect Pacific Islanders together to discuss issues of concern in different subject areas in the region. Furthermore, it enhances and strengthens the current relationship the Pacific Island Countries have with Japan. If organizations like this are formed and made to be vocal in awareness of our region, this is advantageous to the region in the long term. As a member of the six-party membership who formed PIRF, it's a pleasure to work with committed, dedicated and enthusiastic members for a good course and I would continue to serve PIRF to achieve its stipulated goals and objectives.



**Tevita Suka Mangisi (Tonga)**  
Member  
Osaka University

PIRF was formed with the aim of furthering understanding, friendship, and cooperation between Pacific Is. students in Japan in addition to the Pacific Is. students in Japan and the Japanese people. In doing so, through research and other activities, this may serve to broadly enhance and build-on the existing good and cordial relations shared between our countries of the Pacific Islands regions and Japan. Pacific Is. students have been studying in Japan for better part of the last 30 years. Although small in numbers, the island student community has gradually grown to number at least 50 to-date. This year, PIRF had decided to organize an inaugural meeting of all Pacific Island university students as a means to network and further consolidate our presence in Japan by way of discovering ways to which we might better our studying environment. This will inevitably lead to a better quality student being produced in Japan not only for the benefit of the student individually but also for our Pacific Islands region to which we are the future leaders of. Coming from strong community bonds, ISA is a first step to providing this communal atmosphere for current and future students in addition to bringing together the island communities already existing in Japan through participation in ISA and other related activities. ISA also will provide a venue for greater cultural exchange between the student body and island community, with the Japanese society at large.



**Singeru Travis Singeo Jr. (Palau)**  
Member  
Ryukyu University

As a member of the Pacific Islands Researchers Forum, I have been privileged to encounter 5 very dynamic, interesting, and passionate individuals who share a common vision of the importance of friendship and collaboration between regional inter-island relations as well as relations with Japan. Through PIRF's activities, such as the Island Students' Assembly, I believe it will strengthen the bonds between Pacific Islands students living in Japan and furthermore to enhance relational collaboration and friendship between Japanese and Pacific islanders.



**Visoni Motofaga Timote (Fiji)**  
Chairman  
Tokyo University of Agriculture

PIRF although still in its infant stage has been able to put together an Island Students Assembly with the kind sponsors of the Sasakawa Peace Foundation. Far from our Pacific Island homes, ISA is a platform where we students can meet, exchange ideas and contribute for a better tomorrow. Through our collaboration and hard work, together we can achieve the very essence of PIRF's core values. ISA is the beginning of a journey for us, the Pacific Island Students. Let's all be motivated to grasp whatever opportunities that come our way and continue to encourage each other as we sail through the vast oceans ahead.

On behalf of PIRF, I would like to thank those who have assisted and supported us thus making PIRF what it is today. My sincere thanks to Sasakawa Peace Foundation (SPF) for the funding under the Sasakawa Pacific Island Nations Fund (SPINF). Words of gratitude also extended to PIRF advisors, Prof. Kobayashi of JAIPAS and Mr. Tanaka (Former Ambassador to PNG).

A big thank you to the PIRF Patron H.E. Ambassador Maue, who is the current Dean of the Pacific Corps and PNG Ambassador to Japan and other Pacific Island Ambassadors for their encouragement and support. To all the invited guests, participants and volunteers, THANK YOU and Vinaka Vakalevu for making PIRF's first event ISA (Island Students Assembly) a memorable and successful one. Last but not least, I thank my PIRF colleagues for their time, dedication, commitment and team work in making ISA a reality.