



Addressing the challenges of youth unemployment in the pacific through genuine partnerships

Concept Note

Proposed date: Tuesday 31th October 2018, 17:00 – 20:00

Introduction

Youth unemployment in the pacific stands at an alarming 23% (SPC, 2011) with young people 4.5-6 times (ILO, 2017) less likely to secure decent jobs relative to older people. The Pacific Youth Council (PYC) led and Pacific Community (SPC) and International Labour Organisation (ILO) supported Youth Employment Advocacy (YEA)¹ initiative in 2011 resulted in a landmark recognition by the pacific leaders to invest in youth employment, including the critical role of the private sector (PIFS, 2011). Consequently, the 10 year Pacific Youth Development Framework (PYDF)² led by the Pacific Community (SPC) was endorsed by the Pacific Youth Ministers in 2014 and includes youth employment as its first priority and youth entrepreneurship a key outcome area. The S.A.M.O.A Pathway makes specific reference to youth and youth employment in paragraphs 24, 27 (a, c, g), 30 (d), 84 and 88 (a).

The UN Pacific Strategy (UNPS) 2018-22 recognises and prioritises youth unemployment in the Pacific under outcome 3: Sustainable and inclusive Economic Empowerment, with the ILO chairs. SDG8 Decent Work & Economic Growth promotes youth employment.

The Pacific SIDS Regional Preparatory meeting in Tonga from 19-21 June 2018 had a specific session on addressing development challenges through partnerships. Paragraph 39 of the Nukua'lofa outcome document states "*...encompass the notion of leaving no one behind, and engage all relevant stakeholders, including youth, women and civil society and education institutions/academic.*"

The PYC-SPC-ILO Partnership

The 2011 YEA initiative was highlighted as a best practice at the 2014 SIDS Conference in Samoa. Since then, the partnership between PYC, SPC and the ILO has carved pathways at national and regional level to address the challenges faced by young people in securing decent work.

These include:

1. Putting youth employment and entrepreneurship on the agenda of Pacific Economic Ministers Meeting, through the private sector and Non State Actors dialogue;
2. Development of National Action Plan on Youth Employment (NAP) in Samoa which guides the inter-governmental One UN Youth Employment Programme;
3. The establishment of 6 Young Entrepreneurs Councils (YEC) under their national private sector/employers' organisation;
4. Supporting the Samoa National Youth Council (SNYC) in strengthening employment services to support redundant youths due to the closure of Yazaki EDS, Samoa's largest private sector employer in 2017;

¹ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NbQL-3036lg&index=16&list=PL8itJ-8CfpczOtiKg4nZ2vVj6PNF4bylR&t=0s>

² <https://www.spc.int/resource-centre/pacific-youth-development-framework>

The side event and panellists

The objective of the side event will be to showcase the key achievements of the above four initiatives, which has eventuated through genuine partnership between the representative of youths in the Pacific - PYC, a regional institution - SPC and an international agency – ILO. It also demonstrates how regional partnerships genuinely impact local outcomes.

The panellists will be given 5 minutes to present and will include:

	Panellist	Designation/Organisation	Focus
1	Ms Tahere Sisialafia	Chair, Pacific Youth Council (PYC)	Genuine partnership on youth employment in the Pacific and elevating it to the Forum Economic Ministers.
2	Ms Kaisarina Salesa	Former Coordinator, Samoa National Youth Council (SNYC)	SNYC role in supporting redundant youths due to the closure of Yazaki EDS, through genuine partnerships.
3	Ms Nalei Paul	Chair, Samoa Young Entrepreneurs Chamber (YEC)	The role of YEC under the SCCI and its establishment through genuine partnerships.
4	Ms Maria Tiatia	Manager, One UN Youth Employment Programme	The roll out of One UN YEP and the importance of genuine partnerships.
5	Mr Donglin Li	Director, ILO Office for Pacific Island Countries	Role of UNPS (as chair of outcome 3) on promoting youth employment and importance of genuine partnerships to achieve decent work in the Pacific.
6	Ms Kuiniselani Toelupu Tango	Head, Human Development Programme, SPC	The Pacific youth development framework and its link to genuine partnerships in the Pacific.

Outputs

The PYC outputs will be as follows:

1. Submit a draft programme to Mr Tomasi Peni by 8th October 2018;
2. Promote the PYC-SPC-ILO side event through various avenues (social media, txt promotion, etc);
3. Issue invitations to relevant organisations to attend the side event by 19th October 2018;
4. Organise and pay for the side event and reception by 22 October 2018;
5. Manage the side event and reception on 30th October 2018;
6. Upload event pictures, live videos on PYC and ILO Facebook pages;
7. Submit a brief report of the side event, to be posted on ILO and PYC webpages and Facebook sites by 5 November 2018;
8. Youth Employment Key Stakeholders meeting.

Number / List of participants

Most of the participants would be mainly the participants of the SIDS Conference in addition are the local partners that must also need to register in order to attend the side events in the SIDS Village

	Organizations	Number of participants
1	Pacific Youth Council	3
2	Samoa National Youth Council	3
3	Young Entrepreneur Council	4
4	Youth Employment Programme (ONE UN)	6
5	Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Labour	4
6	Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment	6
7	Samoa Chamber of Commerce & Industry	2
8	Samoa Workers Congress	2
9	Ministry of Women Community and Social Development	2
10	ILO team	2
11	Others (NUS students)	4

PROGRAMME ON

- (I) **Signing of the MoU – MNRE/ MCIL & ILO**
- (II) **Addressing Challenges of Youth Unemployment in the Pacific through genuine partnership.**

MoU Signing Event		
Time	Speakers	Comments
17:00 – 17:05	All seated, welcome and programme introduction by MC	MC - Tomasi Peni (ILO NC for Samoa)
17:05 – 17:10	Remarks from ILO	Mr. Donglin Li
17:10 – 17:20	Remarks from MNRE	Mr. Ulu Bismarck Crawley
17:20 – 17:30	Remarks from MCIL/ Chair of SNTF	Mr. Pulotu Lyndon Chu Ling
17:30 – 17:35	Signing of the MoU	ILO/MNRE/MCIL
Youth Employment Side Event		
		MC – (PYC Representative)
17:35-17:45	Ms Tahere Sisialafia Chair, Pacific Youth Council (PYC)	Confirmed
17:45-17:55	Ms Kaisarina Salesa Former Coordinator, Samoa National Youth Council (SNYC)	Confirmed
17:55-18:05	Ms Nalei Paul Chair, Samoa Young Entrepreneurs Chamber (YEC)	(TBC)
18:05-18:15	Ms Maria Tiatia Manager, One UN Youth Employment Programme	Confirmed
18:15 – 18:25	Mr Donglin Li Director, ILO Office for Pacific Island Countries	Confirmed
18:25 – 18:35	Ms Kuiniselani Toelupu Tango Head, Human Development Programme, SPC	Confirmed
18:35 – 18:50	Q&A	
18:50 – 19:50	Light Refreshment & Cocktail	