

Tuesday, MAY 13 2008

3pm - 5.30pm



Creative partnering to enhance sustainable
development and conservation in SIDS



Erik W. Hagberg

Erik W. Hagberg, Founder of Pacific Aquaculture Cooperatives International (PAC International)

Erik's first dreams were of being a fisherman and a marine biologist. While studying for his B.S. in environmental science at Boston University's Woods Hole program, Erik gained hands on experience by running a private fishing boat, working on a commercial shell fishing grant, serving as a natural resource officer for a municipal shellfish department, and independently developing a number of new aquaculture prototypes. Following graduation, Erik traveled the Pacific, working on commercial pearl farms in Australia, the Cook Islands, and Tahiti, and visited numerous outer island communities throughout the Pacific to learn local ways of life. Along the way, he made some very important discoveries related to sustainably farming sea cucumbers. In 2005, he founded Pacific Aquaculture Cooperatives International and began to develop the "Corporate Cooperative" business model for sustainable development in Small Island Developing States. In 2006, Erik Founded PAC RMI Inc., the first operational corporate cooperative in the Republic of the Marshall Islands which is currently providing grass roots development opportunities to outer island communities by establishing its first sea cucumber farms.