



April 4, 2011

Welcome to the monthly media wrap up of happenings, events, information and resources aimed at keeping readers in touch with the 'Niusbeat' for Pacific journalists and media practitioners. Follow the latest news on communications and development issues, people on the move, and what's afoot with media from newsrooms to global trends - or keep us posted with a note to [lisa.lahari@gmail.com](mailto:lisa.lahari@gmail.com).

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**What are you doing on May 3? World Press Freedom Day 2011:** From the challenges of self-censorship and standing by a professional code of ethics to shining a spotlight on threats to media freedom, the annual commemoration of World Press Freedom Day on May 3 provides a timely moment for media workers to put themselves under the media lens. Following the Pacific's first-time hosting of the 2010 UNESCO global celebration of the day, the University of Queensland's School of Communications Professor Martin Hadlow will join this year's UNESCO event at the Newseum in Washington DC.

Check out WPF 2011 on Facebook: <http://www.connect.connect.facebook.com/WPFD2011>

**Pacific Media Networks Meeting:** This year's World Press Freedom Day theme is "21st Century Media: New Frontiers, New Barriers". In keeping up the search for new frontiers, plans for an inaugural Pacific media networks meeting in early May are shaping up. Those planning activities for the day are encouraged to share what's happening in your part of the Pacific. The International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) Asia-Pacific Media for Democracy and Human Rights in the Pacific project supported by the European Union and UNESCO will support a number of in-country local media rights monitoring workshops across a number of Pacific islands.

Find out more from IFJ Pacific Project Coordinator Lisa Williams-Lahari: [lisa.lahari@gmail.com](mailto:lisa.lahari@gmail.com)

**Wanted: your views on media training a la Pacific:** Close on the heels of a call for input into Australia's second phase of the Pacific Media Assistance scheme (PacMAS), comes another call to the region for input on media training needs a la Pacific realities and experiences. Professor Martin Hadlow of the University of Queensland in Australia, is leading the call for input to inform a new and separate media training and development fund which is expected to be announced in 2011. What types of media training would you like to see happening in Pacific media circles and what lessons have we learnt from the past? Now's the chance to share your experiences and ideas...or draw further attention to what you have already sent the PacMAS review!

Contact Martin at [m.hadlow@uq.edu.au](mailto:m.hadlow@uq.edu.au)

**New research on media gender gap:** A new Global Report on Status of Women in News Media unveiled last week shows a gender gap in media management jobs worldwide. The report into more than 500 companies in nearly 60 countries with Pacific input from Australia, New Zealand and Fiji, shows that men occupy the vast majority of the management jobs and news-gathering positions in most nations represented. The study, commissioned by the International Women's

Media Foundation, will inform and help strengthen initial survey work by the Pacific WAVE Media Network into the status of women in Pacific newsrooms. Content-focused monitoring is already established via the Global Media Monitoring Project (GMMP), which FemLINKpacific is the regional focal point. The IWMF study showed that in the Asia and Oceania region, women are barely 13 percent of those in senior management.

See the full report: <http://3diesel.com/IWMF-Global-Report/Global-Report-v31-COLOR.pdf>

**Monitoring Pacific media freedom:** Alerts in February/March from the regional networks featured the Pacific Freedom Forum (PFF) alerts covering Fiji, Vanuatu, Palau, PNG, Papua, and the Solomon Islands. Statements of sympathy and solidarity were issued by the IFJ, PFF and Australia's Media, Entertainment and Arts Alliance for New Zealand media workers who lost colleagues from *The Press* newspaper and Canterbury Television during the devastating February 22 Christchurch earthquake. Our condolences and thoughts go out to the media colleagues who worked tirelessly to ensure quality coverage was provided in the aftermath of the quake. The Pacific Islands News Association (PINA), the IFJ and PFF issued a statement on the March 4 assault on Publisher of the *Vanuatu Daily Post*, Marc-Neil Jones. There has been little progress in the police investigation and Neil-Jones is seeking support to pursue an individual case against his assailants, including for legal fees.

Write to Marc Neil Jones at [publisher@dailypost.com.vu](mailto:publisher@dailypost.com.vu) and sign the petition to stop violence against Pacific journalists and media workers here: <http://www.thepetitionsite.com/13/stop-government-violence-against-journalists-in-the-pacific-islands/>

Read PFF statements online here: [www.pacificfreedomforum.org](http://www.pacificfreedomforum.org)

Read IFJ Pacific statements here: <http://asiapacific.ifj.org/en/articles/new-ifj-action-to-strengthen-media-freedom-in-the-pacific>

**New Pacific links we like:** The **Pacific Media Centre** in NZ gets a thumbs-up for its revamped Facebook look. You can 'like' them at <http://www.facebook.com/PacificMediaCentre>. IFEX member the US based **Centre for Law and Democracy** has put out a note responding to an updated position by the UN Human Rights Committee around the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), which had made a call for input on media freedom comments which it will share with the UN member states – including Pacific governments. The UN Human Rights Committee ICCPR text will provide an entry point for media monitors to remind Pacific UN member governments of the universal human right to freedom of expression and information sharing, Article 19.

Read the full comment from the Centre's Executive Director Toby Mendel: <http://www.law-democracy.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/07/UN-HRC-GC-34.Jan11.pdf>

**Journalist assault renews debate on women reporting from frontlines:** Should female journalists stop reporting from the frontlines of conflict and focus on family instead? The arguments raged back and forth in America and Canada following the savage molestation of 60 minutes correspondent Lara Logan while reporting from Egypt's now-historic Tahrir square on the resignation of Hosni Mubarak. Logan was covering the dynamic unfolding events in the square on February 11 and was attacked and sexually assaulted by a group of men after becoming separated from her crew. Saved from further abuse by women who threw themselves over her body, Logan's ordeal has reopened debate around risk and danger for journalists covering conflict and whether women journalists should step back from reporting from the frontlines. What did Logan do? She took some time out – then returned to work as before, with the full support of family and loved ones.

Read more here: [http://www.j-source.ca/english\\_new/detail.php?id=6208](http://www.j-source.ca/english_new/detail.php?id=6208)

**Pacific writers sought:** Interested in submitting your articles around agriculture and development? The Rome-based editor for SPORE is looking for contributions and story ideas around thematic issues. From the impacts of modernisation on farming, food security and Pacific agriculture and trade initiatives, the angles depend on how you pitch your story ideas. For more info on how to be a contributor to SPORE, either as a photographer or writer for case studies, interview pieces, and providing general info for articles put together by a writing team, contact editor Clare Pedrick at [clarepedrick@gmail.com](mailto:clarepedrick@gmail.com).

**Regional media meets:** PINA membership fees closed off at the end of March for voting members at the PINA summit 2011 planned for November in Papua New Guinea. For more info write to PINA coordinator Matai Akauola at [pina@connect.com.fj](mailto:pina@connect.com.fj). The second regional roundtable of the IFJ Pacific Media Project is planned for Honiara, Solomon Islands, following on from the AIBD Pacific Media Partnership meeting for regional broadcasters in August in Papua New Guinea. For more info contact IFJ Regional Project coordinator [lisa.lahari@gmail.com](mailto:lisa.lahari@gmail.com).

**Media on the move:** In Tonga, Josephine Latu moved from her editorial position in the *Taimi Media Group* to take up media advisor duties to the Tonga Government, and we're tracking the progress of one of our few Pacific media PhD's Sione Vikilani, formerly of Tonga Broadcasting and now working in Tonga's Parliament on public awareness and media issues. Vikilani has already impressed with his efforts to build knowledge of the fourth estate amongst Tonga's elected leadership. Still in Polynesia, journalist Taina Kami makes her return to the print mainstream by joining the *Samoa Observer* news team, and in the Cook Islands long-time journalist Florence Syme-Buchanan returns to the full time mainstream as part of the news team at daily paper the *Cook Islands News*. In Melanesia, Papua New Guinea media colleagues bid adieu to long-time PNG NAU FM News Director Titi Gabi, who leaves the broadcast mainstream to take up freelance media work. Across from Moresby, in Honiara, the Solomon Islands Government has allocated a new Policy and management role to its former Prime Ministerial media spokesman, Alfred Sasako who has been replaced by former SIBC newsman David Tuhanuku. Are you farewelling colleagues in Pacific media or saying hello to the next level yourself? Drop a line to [lisa.lahari@gmail.com](mailto:lisa.lahari@gmail.com) – and our best NIUSbeat wishes go out to all of our Pacific media colleagues who are taking their work in new directions.

#### **Deadlines and datelines - media calendar:**

**April 27:** Deadline for Pacific journos applying for media accreditation to cover the Fourth UN Conference on the Least Developed Countries in Istanbul, Turkey. Do it online at <http://www.un.org/en/media/accreditation/form/index.html>

**May 22-26:** Registrations close off soon for Pacific broadcasters attending the Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcast Development (AIBD) Media summit in Hanoi, Vietnam in May 2011. Summit sessions will include updates from the Pacific Media Partnerships meeting planned for August 2011, in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea.

**31 May to June 3, 2011:** The biennial International Freedom of Expression eXchange (IFEX) global networks meeting will be held in Beirut, Lebanon and focus on the IFEX General Meeting and Strategy Conference theme. Best of luck to Pacific applicants to the IFEX Access Fund for attendance scholarships which closed off on Friday March 25. For visa and program queries, contact the Maharat IFEX GM Coordinator, Loyal Banham at [layal\\_bt@hotmail.com](mailto:layal_bt@hotmail.com).

**Verbatim:** "We have to get out of the free-lunch mentality that has been present for years through flying people in to training in different Pacific countries that is in effect a working holiday. This is not in line with modern thinking and online technology now available. Ask yourselves. What asset in training for the South Pacific has been left after all the millions spent over the years?" - *Vanuatu Daily Post* publisher Marc Neil Jones, commenting to media colleagues online over the need to monitor implementation and follow up on Regional training workshops.

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On the NIUSbeat: Got something you want to share with other Pacific newshounds and media workers? Want to guest-edit a NIUSbeat edition? Feel there's something missing or want to contribute under any of the above headings? Our effectiveness needs your connectedness! Drop the NIUSbeatPACIFIC editor a line at [lisa.lahari@gmail.com](mailto:lisa.lahari@gmail.com) .

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*The IFJ represents more than 600,000 journalists in 125 countries.*

*Find the IFJ on Twitter: [@ifjasiapacific](https://twitter.com/ifjasiapacific) or on Facebook [here](#)*

