

## **Pacific Libraries Summit – 1 June 2018 Pacific Harbour, Fiji**

### **Purpose**

The purpose of the Pacific Libraries Summit was to develop a Call to Action for public library development in the Pacific and to demonstrate the value of libraries in achieving the United Nations 2030 Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The vision for the Summit was to bring together key regional stakeholders, library practitioners and INELI-Oceania innovators to advocate for the role of public libraries and librarians in society and to inspire a vision and agreement for collaborative and sustainable development of public library services in the Pacific.

### **Who was there**

Nearly 100 library practitioners and representatives from NGOs and Governments from 15 countries across the Pacific met to develop a plan to strengthen the impact of Pacific libraries to better support the needs of communities through collaboration, networking and advocacy. This is the first such meeting ever held in the Pacific. Connection with those influencers and enablers who were enthusiastic about their support for libraries will be maintained and the influence of Pacific Library Associations will be increased through membership of IFLA.

### **What people said**

*Years ago, I started saying that if you want community issues resolved, “the library must be at the table”. After yesterday’s training and conversations, I am willing to boldly say that it’s not possible to achieve SDG targets without the library at the table.* (Deborah Jacobs, Global Libraries, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation)

*The opportunities for libraries in relation to literacy and learning, civic participation and access to information continues to be of great relevance given the need to tap into reservoirs of knowledge including Pacific and indigenous knowledge, that are becoming increasingly important as we search for answers to address our complex development challenges.* (Leituala Kuiniselani Toelupe Tago – Elisara, Director Social Development Programme, Pacific Community)

### **What was achieved**

The Summit produced a document *The Statement of Intent* which has eight goals. The goals are set in the context of an agreement that we are all the Pacific while recognising the diversity of the region, that we all have an equal voice and that libraries are valued and recognised for their contribution to achieving the SDGs. Each participant at the Summit was asked to make a personal commitment to the implementation of the Statement of Intent. The level of ongoing energy is high.

### **Next steps and what to look out for**

A Pacific Libraries Network *Compact* is being developed to capture the discussions and process of the Pacific Libraries Summit and to be a reference document for further discussions. This will be distributed shortly. Funds have been raised for several Pacific library associations to join IFLA.

Key people will be brought together to harness the energy and the commitments from the Summit to develop a Strategic Action Plan to enable sustainable delivery of the Statement of Intent. The existing network will be maintained through the Pacific Libraries Network Facebook page. A listserv of all participants at the Summit has been set up and hosted by the National Library of Australia to share information. The network is also open to those who could not attend as well as all other interested people.

For more details, presentations and media, visit <https://www.inelioceaniasummit.net/>

## Pacific Libraries Summit Statement of Intent

*Strengthen the impact of Pacific libraries to better support the needs of Pacific communities through collaborative networking and advocacy.*

### **Context: We are The Pacific**

We recognise the complexity of our region and its diverse interests

We recognise the contribution of all countries in the Pacific as equal partners

We recognise the value and contribution of the library field to the achievement of the SDGs

It is our time!

### **Goals**

1. Develop legislative and policy frameworks for each country by
  - a. Securing legislative and legal deposit requirements to ensure the documentary heritage of each country
  - b. Ensuring the provision of a Library Act to establish the role of government in the provision of libraries
2. Advocate for the role of libraries by
  - a. Supporting the United Nations 2030 Agenda
  - b. Creating informed and engaged citizenry including marginalised and vulnerable communities
3. Improve literacy rates by
  - a. Providing early childhood programs and support for children and their families
  - b. Providing safe spaces for people developing their literacy skills
  - c. Giving access to a wide range of reading materials including in local languages
  - d. Providing information and digital literacy training
4. Preserve and promote cultural heritage by
  - a. Encouraging the practice and celebration of culture, languages and traditional knowledge systems
  - b. Creating and making available resources in indigenous languages
5. Promote and strengthen collaboration by
  - a. Establishing a platform to share information, knowledge and learning
  - b. Establishing partnerships to support achievement of the SDGs
  - c. Partnering with local organisations to meet the needs of communities
6. Build skills, capacity and recognition of the value of librarians by
  - a. Investing in the development of library leadership
  - b. Improving access to library and information education programs across the Pacific
7. Ensure equitable access to information to all by
  - a. Reducing the digital divide
  - b. Providing quality digital infrastructure
  - c. Giving access to a wide range of digital resources
8. Develop inclusive programs and services that support awareness and delivery of SDGs, in particular
  - a. Resilient communities
  - b. Employment
  - c. Gender equity