REPORT OF THE WORKSHOP ON THE MANAGEMENT OF WOMEN'S INFORMATION CENTRES (FOR THE SOUTH PACIFIC COUNTRIES)

Port Vila, Vanuatu, 13-24 November 1989

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ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

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Introduction

The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) launched a long-term project on the development of a women's information network for Asia and the Pacific in 1986. The major objectives of the project are to gather, analyse and disseminate views, ideas and statistics related to women in development in order to provide a channel to promote co-operative activities among women in Asia and the Pacific and an effective means of monitoring the advancement of women's status in the region in accordance with the provisions of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women and relevant United Nations conventions. The project is aimed at upgrading existing national and subregional information systems for women and also developing new ones, all of which will be linked with the regional information centre established within the Social Development Division of ESCAP.

As a first step towards implementing the project, a regional seminar on the development of a women's information network for Asia and the Pacific was held at the National Women's Education Centre, Saitama, Japan from 1 to 6 December 1986. The Seminar reviewed the existing women's information channels and organizational structures in the Asian and Pacific region and discussed the establishment of a regional women's information network. It adopted a set of recommendations on a minimum list of crucial indicators to be collected at the national level which are vital in understanding women's situations, measures to improve socio-economic indicators on the situation of women, and a regional model of the women's information network for Asia and the Pacific.

For the period 1988-1991, major activities of WINAP consist of: (a) development of training programmes for national women's information centre staff; (b) improving statistics and indicators on women; (c) provision of technical support and advisory services to upgrade national women's information mechanisms; (d) strengthening the regional WINAP focal point in the Social Development Division of ESCAP; and (e) publication of newsletters, directories, manuals and other materials concerned with women's information systems and networks.

The first subregional workshop on the management of women's information centres was held for the South Asian countries at Bangkok from 6 to 22 December 1988 and the second for the East and South-East Asian countries at Bangkok from 22 May to 2 June 1989. The third workshop, of which this is the report, was held for the South Pacific countries at Port Vila, Vanuatu. Another series of subregional workshops will be organized on the technical processing of information starting in mid-1990. The outcome of these workshops will be incorporated into training manuals on women's communications and information to be published in 1991.

A. Objectives of the Workshop

The main objective of the Workshop was to upgrade the professional capabilities of the information personnel responsible for managing the women's information centres located within or affiliated with the national focal points for the advancement of women and the non-governmental organizations concerned with women's information in the South Pacific subregion.

B. Participants

The Workshop was attended by 27 participants from national focal points for the advancement of women and national women's organizations concerned with women's information networks. They came from the following 15 members or associate members of ESCAP: Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Niue, Papua New Guinea, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Republic of Kiribati, Republic of Palau, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Territory of American Samoa, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.

In addition, the Workshop was attended by observers from the Prime Minister's Office, Government of Vanuatu, the Vanuatu National Council of Women, the National Planning and Statistics Office, Vanuatu, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the International Labour Organisation (ILO), the World Health Organization (WHO), the South Pacific Commission and the University of the South Pacific.

C. Resource Persons

The Workshop was co-ordinated by the ESCAP Pacific Operations Centre (EPOC) in Vanuatu and Social Development Division in Bangkok. A number of resource persons with varied backgrounds and experience made presentations at the Workshop: two lecturers from the University of the South Pacific in Fiji and Vanuatu, and one each from the Women's Division, Ministry of Home Affairs, Papua New Guinea, the Australian Council for Overseas Aid (ACFOA), Meijyo University and National Women's Education Centre through the financial assistance of the Japan International Co-operation Agency (JICA), Women's Resource Bureau, the South Pacific Commission, the International Women's Tribune Centre in the United States, the Japan Overseas Co-operation Volunteers in Fiji and the Pacific International Trust Company.

Two consultants from the United Nations Statistical Office (UNSO) in New York also participated and led discussions. Within the ESCAP secretariat, the Statistics Division co-operated with the Workshop co-ordinators by providing a regional adviser as a lecturer. An officer from the Social Development Division also made presentations.

The list of participants and resource persons is attached as annex I.

D. Opening of the Workshop

The Workshop was inaugurated by H.E. Fr. Walter Hadye Lini, Prime Minister of the Government of Vanuatu. An opening message of the Executive Secretary of ESCAP was read by the Head of the ESCAP Pacific Operations Centre and a keynote speech was made by Ms. Hilda Vagaalu Lini, Member of Parliament, Government of Vanuatu. Opening and closing prayers were said by Pastor Tom Tali of the Vanuatu Christian Council.

In his inaugural address, the Prime Minister welcomed the participants and resource persons to Vanuatu. He commented that the organization of this

Workshop was timely since a wealth of information was available in the Pacific but not yet properly used and disseminated. Acknowledging the important role of women in development, the Government of Vanuatu had established the Women's Affairs Office under the Prime Minister's Office to function as a clearinghouse for women-related information in Vanuatu. It also supported the activities of the National Council of Women to make communities realize the important role that women played in the delivery of social services.

He noted that traditionally closeted Pacific women were beginning to venture out. They were taking steps in an ever-widening atmosphere of heightened awareness to advance their potential as contributors to, and beneficiaries of, experience gained outside the confines of the family and local community environment. That process emphasized the need for women in the development movement to co-ordinate their efforts and improve upon their capacity to collect, analyse and document detailed information about the situation of women. Workshops such as the present one would play a pivotal role in facilitating the establishment of women's information centres and enhancing their efficiency and effectiveness. The Workshop would update and improve upon the knowledge and skills of those who were already in the field of collecting and disseminating information. Knowledge and skills learned and updated at the Workshop could be shared and used by the participants on their return home. Sharing implied that the impact of the Workshop would be multiplied.

The Executive Secretary of ESCAP said in his opening message that women's participation in the development process had, in recent years been a major and growing concern in the wide-ranging programme of ESCAP. Keeping in view the global and regional mandates established during the United Nations Decade for Women, ESCAP had consistently worked to integrate women's concerns into all spheres of its activities. It had taken on an advocacy role, drawing the attention of Governments and non-governmental organizations to major issues as well as urging that appropriate measures be taken to bring women into the mainstream of development.

Using the above framework, the Women's Information Network for Asia and the Pacific (WINAP) has been developed to focus the region's attention on the most urgent and crucial needs of women. WINAP was a long-term, forward-looking project designed to assist ESCAP members and associate members in exchanging experience and know-how to integrate women's concerns into development planning and programmes through the building of effective information mechanisms at the national, subregional and regional levels.

The present Workshop was the third of a series of three subregional training workshops to be conducted in 1988-1989 on how to establish and manage national women's information centres in the age of modern technology. He expressed his wish that the Workshop would provide the foundation for the evolution of an effective network among the countries and organizations represented, as had the first and second subregional workshops, held in Bangkok in 1988 and earlier in 1989.

Ms. Hilda Lini, Member of Parliament, Vanuatu welcoming the participants, said that the need for information on women and establishing women's information networks in the Pacific had long been recognized at various regional meetings on women, most recently at the Fourth Regional

Meeting on Women of the Pacific held at Suva in September 1988. She noted that there had already been several regional information networks operating in the Pacific, such as those of the Pacific Women's Resource Bureau of the South Pacific Commission, the University of the South Pacific Library and Pacific Information Centre (PIC) and the ESCAP Pacific Operations Centre (EPOC). All of those networks had collaborated closely to develop, process and disseminate information about Pacific women. They had also kept a close link with a wide range of women's networks, such as IWTC, the Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA), Women and Development Network of Australia (WADNA), ISIS-Women's International Cross-Cultural Exchange and WINAP of ESCAP.

She stressed that if information management, networking and dissemination was to be effective, Pacific women needed to decide whether the present system responded to their information needs. If not, then a new structure should be set up which would work more or less like the International Women's Tribune Centre, in the sense that it would be a neutral and independent centre managed and operated by women, where the contents of publications were decided by women who were aware of what information needs existed. However, that could only come about under the following conditions: (a) if Pacific women wished to set up a new structure; (b) if all the existing women's information centres agreed to pool their resources and collaborate to establish an effective information network; (c) if that new structure was independent from all agencies so that it could operate in a system directed by women to benefit women in their efforts to build better families and communities; and (d) if Governments, and intergovernmental and non-governmental agencies contributed funding and technical, technological and informational resources.

While the Workshop would concentrate on the management of women's information centres, Ms. Lini expressed her hope that women of the Pacific would continue to look for effective ways of getting relevant information to women faster and in a language easily understood so that information was effectively utilized.

E. Workshop programmes and methodology

The Social Development Adviser, EPOC, then delivered a general introduction and the remaining participants introduced themselves. The Social Affairs Officer, ESCAP, then briefed the participants on the Workshop programme and methodology and introduced the primary resource persons.

The main topics of the Workshop were:

Module 1: Review and appraisal of national women's information mechanisms

(a) Information needed about and for women;

(b) Information flows and organization structure.

Module 2: Management of women's information centres

(a) Definition, scope, activities and organization of women's information centres;

(b) Information networking at the national, subregional, regional and global levels.

Module 3: Collection, analysis and organization of women's information

(a) Socio-economic indicators and statistics on women;

(b) Acquisition and organization of materials (classification, indexing, thesaurus and abstracting);

(c) Research skills relevant to Pacific women.

Module 4: Production of media materials on women's issues

(a) Awareness-building and access to resources;

(b) Media strategies and materials;

(c) Production of low-cost media materials.

Module 5: New information technology and its application to women's information systems

(a) Introduction to new information technology;

(b) Demonstration of microcomputers for processing of information on women (word processing, bibliographic information on storage and retrieval and desktop publishing).

Module 6: Development of future action plans.

F. Summaries of Workshop modules

Module 1: *Review and appraisal of national women's information mechanisms*

Country papers were presented by the participants from the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Republic of Kiribati, the Republic of Palau, Solomon Islands, Fiji, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, Tonga, Niue, Samoa, Vanuatu, the Cook Islands, Territory of American Samoa, Tuvalu, Federated States of Micronesia, and Papua New Guinea. A list of the country papers and other documents presented at the Workshop is attached as annex II.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

In the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Constitutional Amendment 21, ratified in November 1985, had created the Office of Special Assistant for Women's Affairs with responsibility for formulating and implementing a policy of affirmative action in the government and private sector which assisted women to achieve social, political and economic parity. Furthermore, the Office of Women's Affairs had been established to promote the interests of women, assist government agencies and private organizations planning and implementing programmes and services for women and organize community education strategies regarding the roles of women.

The Office of Women's Affairs was the official resource information centre and custodian of all information for and about women in the country. It had an "open door" policy whereby women could personally visit the office to voice their concerns and issues. One of its most important goals was to manage information and information technologies to support women's organizations, groups and individuals, forging ties and linkages with other government departments and agencies, and private companies and citizens. As the women's information centre was still in a developing stage, the existing method of information dissemination was quite simple; the government employees were reached through inter- and intra-office/department memoranda. Private enterprises received information through posters and flyers posted at appropriate public places and business establishments. The communities were reached through the use of electronic and print media. Survey forms were handed out to supervisory-level personnel at business meetings of organizations such as the Saipan Chamber of Commerce and the Northern Marianas Rotary Club. This method is very efficient; through direct contact with management, tremendous co-operation and support has been elicited.

The Office of Women's Affairs recognized that information technologies were powerful tools that lead to efficient management of information, resources and people. The Office was adopting and implementing approaches that best responded to its constitutional directives, executive branch management philosophy and style, existing resources, and ability to adjust to management changes. It had been trying to improve its information management capability and office automation, and assessing and improving intergovernmental and client information channels as well. Women's information would be collected and produced to enhance and fulfil the Office's mission in State-wide applications. An attempt would be made not to duplicate any information that was obtainable from other agencies. Women's information and other vital gender-based statistics should be shared across organizational lines for they were owned by the people and the collecting and creating agency functioned only as a custodian. A women's information sharing mechanism had just been initiated with other government agencies and autonomous agencies such as the Northern Marianas College library service, which was expanding its women's section.

The Northern Mariana's National Council of Women, a non-governmental organization encompassing 20 national women's organizations, had been newly established with the ratification of its charter in October 1989. Some of its main objectives were to assist the activities of various women's organizations and co-ordinate them with the Women's Affairs Office, to assist women's organizations in the collection and dissemination of relevant information, and to link them with regional and international networks for women. It had two standing subcommittees primarily responsible for information exchange, namely the Information, Communication and Research Sub-Committee and the Publicity and Promotion Sub-Committee.

The Council was a landmark development for the people of the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas. The creation of the Council had begun the development of various changes in government and non-governmental programme policies. A resurgence of the need to know more about women and their impact in the country had started to force agencies to evaluate and reassess their data base to allow for the integration and analysis of gender profiles. Gender statistics were currently being sought from various agencies, including the Department of Public Safety, the Criminal Justice Planning Agency, the

Public School System, the Commonwealth Health Center, the Division of Youth Services, and many other women-serving agencies. The realization and recognition of the importance of women in the Pacific region had gained significant momentum with the publicity surrounding the recent establishment of the Council. It was anticipated that as various departments and agencies began to reassess their data base and other statistics and began to determine, identify, and analyse gender as part of their ongoing agency analysis, the role of women would begin to have a more significant impact.

Republic of Kiribati

In the Republic of Kiribati, the National Women's Federation (AMAK) had become an independent body in 1982, but a link with the Ministry of Home Affairs and Decentralization still remained. The Government of Kiribati aimed to promote women's roles and functions in development through AMAK and therefore provided it with financial support. The total membership of AMAK was 6,582 women as of October 1989.

AMAK did not have an information unit where printed materials could be stored, but it actively promoted radio programmes through a CB radio system owned by the Ministry of Health and Family Planning. It was most effective in establishing a good information network among women through the CB radio system. At least one CB radio system should be established on each island with the programmes co-ordinated by the AMAK centre on Tarawa.

Republic of Palau

In the Republic of Palau, attempts at formalizing a functional women's interest office had been continuing since 1982. However, a centre had not yet materialized. The Bureau of Community Services, Ministry of Social Services, had been responsible, meanwhile, for co-ordination and development of women's activities, programmes and projects in consultation with the Committee of Planning and Programming of Women Interest Activities. The Bureau could be loosely referred to as the Women's Interest Office. Because that office was organizationally non-existent, women-related programmes were given low priority in government work, and information about women was not properly collected and disseminated.

Each community had two female leaders who represented the two highest ranking royal families. There were also specific women in a community who performed the role of messenger. Their duties included collecting information and keeping records of meetings, etc. However, owing to lack of funds for supplies and equipment, an efficient information network on women's activities had not yet been fully developed. Mail boats, radio broadcasting and meetings with slides, films and videos were the main means used to exchange and disperse information.

Solomon Islands

In the Solomon Islands, the Women's Interest Office was changed to the Women in Development Division under the Ministry of Health and Medical Services in 1989. The main purposes of the Division were:

(1) To promote an increased and more effective role for women in decision-making and national development;

(2) To improve the availability and circulation of information and resources relating to the welfare of women and the family unit;

(3) To facilitate women's training programmes to enable women to develop appropriate knowledge and skills to improve their participation in development.

With regard to information dissemination, the information was addressed to the head office in Honiara under the responsibility of the head of the division. She was then responsible for circulating the information to all the women's organizations in the country. All information that reached the head office was filed in the division filing system after it had been disseminated to appropriate organizations. The methods of communication and dissemination of information used were the telephone, letter writing, radio programmes, and women's newsletters. The *Women's Newsletter* was circulated to registered women's groups on the mailing list, and to interested individuals and organizations overseas.

The Solomon Islands National Council of Women, a non-governmental organization, had been formed in 1983 by the Government through the Ministry of Health and Medical Services. That was after the Government saw the priority of women's needs. Those needs were reflected in several of the government's National Plan and Programmes. For example, the 1975-78 National Development Plan recognized the need for co-ordination of women's activities throughout the country. Likewise in the 1981-84 National Action Programme it was stated that there was a need for the mobilization of all human and natural resources. The main purposes of the Council were:

(1) To look into problems and needs of women in the country and find the means of solving and improving them;

(2) To co-ordinate women's activities throughout the country through provincial and area councils of women, and set up committees in order to encourage unity, co-operation and sharing of resources;

(3) To encourage the effective participation of more women at all levels of decision-making in the country in order for true development to be brought about;

(4) To be the link between the Government and women's affairs in the country.

One of the most important tasks that the Council had been carrying out since its inception was an awareness-raising campaign through information dissemination in such forms as a women's newsletter, "Nius Blong Mere", radio programmes entitled "Olketa Mere", provincial workshops and meetings. However, owing to financial constraints, only three staff members were employed, namely, the General Secretary, the Communications Officer and a driver. The staffing was far from sufficient to continue various information activities and at present the newsletter was not printed. Nevertheless, the Council was trying to raise more funds to increase its staff and produce more media materials for women.

It was advantageous for both the Government and the National Council of Women and other non-governmental women's organizations to sit together and plan or appoint a committee to be responsible for information dissemination, irrespective of whether the Women in Development Division or the National Council of Women took the chair. That committee would then work towards establishing a women's information centre.

Fiji

In Fiji, the Ministry of Women and Social Welfare had been established in 1987. The Department for Women and Culture under the Ministry functioned as a national focal point for women's affairs. Its programmes consisted of (1) policy and administration, (2) research, information and communication, (3) project implementation and extension, and (4) human resources development. The research, information and communication programme included systematic collection of data related to women and culture; evaluation of existing programmes providing future policy and planning guidelines; and identification of new service provisions and their relevance and cost effectiveness. Archive records of important cultural practices were also being maintained.

The Department had a staff who collected data on women's issues in various districts, compiled statistics on the training courses, projects and other activities undertaken by them and submitted them to the headquarters. The district staff also kept a list of women clubs and office bearers in their district and continually sent updates to the headquarters. The headquarters had a statistician (volunteer) provided under Japanese aid, who analysed the data and put it into the computer, and prepared a monthly/quarterly report for the Department for office use. The quarterly reports were sent to the district staff for their information. Data and information were also collected by headquarters staff (by the Statistician and Senior Assistant Secretary, Training and Research) on a number of issues. However, there was a limitation on the amount of data collected, because of staffing constraints.

The various governmental departments collected their own information and data, which were mainly processed numerically or by various racial categories, for example Fijians, Indians and others, rather than by gender. The Public Service Commission had been approached to assist the Department by sending a directive to all government sections to collect gender specific data. It was hoped that faster progress would be made if the departments collected such data. Some of the non-governmental organizations such as the Women's Crisis Centre and the YWCA already collected data on specific women's issues for their own use. However, there was no co-ordination of such data between non-governmental organizations and the Government.

Communication with women was through meetings with the various clubs, conducting courses for them or following up on various rural development projects. The Department was very active as far as the training of rural women was concerned. It conducted courses on various subjects, such as family education, food and nutrition, appropriate technology, clothing and textiles, sewing machine maintenance, income-generating and business skills and simple home repairs. During the first half of the year a total of 210 courses, had been conducted, in which a total of 4,221 women had participated. Communication

with women was also maintained through a regular women's broadcast on Radio Fiji. The Department had also produced a monthly newsletter, starting at the beginning of the year until July. However, owing to staffing constraints, it had since been left in abeyance. The dissemination of information was also hampered by staffing restrictions.

The Department had a new computer and printer. However, it operated independently without connections to any other department. It also had electronic typewriters and photocopying facilities, but did not have any other informational technology, such as fax, telex and electronic mail. Although the Department placed a high priority in the development of an information unit, there were no immediate plans for adopting any other information technology. Apart from its own staff training, it was felt that training other personnel, both in government and non-governmental organizations that were responsible for collection and dissemination of women-specific information was necessary. A training workshop specifically for Fiji would be very timely and most beneficial.

The National Council of Women, Fiji, (NCWF) was a non-governmental organization established in 1968. It was an apolitical, non-profit, inter-denominational and multi-racial organization with a membership of more than 60 women's clubs, associations and organizations, about one third of which operated nation-wide.

NCWF considered communication and information an invaluable resource and a powerful means to bring women forth and voice their concerns. However, it faced several problems:

(1) General information and data pertaining to women was scarce, and if available was inaccessible to the general public.

(2) Apart from periodic research/surveys conducted by individual ministries or academic institutions, very little research that was gender-based was done by the various non-governmental organizations that operated in Fiji, largely because of limited capital and human resources. Furthermore, emphasis was more on ethnic, rural versus urban, etc., inequalities rather than gender inequalities.

(3) There was no central unit as such where all information on women was stored and readily available. Each organization had its own "library". NCWF had its own small information resource centre where all literature/reading material sent from local and overseas organizations was kept. It was, however, without any systematic indexing, classification, etc., which one would find in a library.

(4) Financing and manpower were considered to be the two main problems in establishing an information centre and network. Submissions had been made to funding agencies but the guarantee of funding continuity was tenuous.

(5) There was also a cultural problem, in that Fijian society was more proficient in verbal communication than written, which might explain, to some extent, why feedback was lacking.

The most widely used method of communication by NCWF is newsletters. Information collected from affiliates was put together, repackaged and sent back to all associates. A proposal had been made for the establishment of a communication and resource centre for NCWF. Through that Centre, the Council hoped not only to collect, store and disseminate information on women, but simultaneously to conduct surveys and research on issues pertinent to women, such as women and employment legislation, literacy levels of women and violence against women.

Republic of the Marshall Islands

In the Marshall Islands, the Women's Affairs Office, Ministry of Social Services, had been a national focal point for the advancement of women. Its main functions were to: (1) co-ordinate programmes to develop teaching skills and leadership qualities in women; (2) work through existing women's organizations and church groups; and (3) establish a national women's organization. The Office co-ordinated with the Planning and Statistics Office in collecting information about women's activities and programmes. It also exchanged information with non-governmental organizations such as Women United Together in the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Marshall Islands Handicrafts Co-op, the Marshall Islands Credit Union, Women's Leaders in Outer Islands and Midwives Association.

The major means of communication adopted by the Women's Affairs Office were radio programmes, posters, letters and visitation. The Office hoped to publish women's newsletters to formalize and standardize dissemination of information since communication was currently limited and time consuming. Regarding new technology, an Apple Mackintosh computer had been placed in the Community Development Section under the Ministry of Social Services. It could be accessed by officers of the Women's Affairs Office after proper training had been provided.

Tonga

In Tonga, there was no central unit where all the information for and about women was stored. Information was kept by different ministries and non-governmental organizations concerned with women. The Central Planning Department was a focal point for information exchange with international organizations, however, it did not have any specific office or officers assigned for women's issues.

The Women's Development Unit, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, undertook projects to upgrade the standard of living by encouraging women to pursue income-generating activities. It also collected and disseminated information on agriculture, small-scale fisheries, handicrafts, forestry, etc. Non-governmental organizations which also collected and disseminated information about women were the South Pacific Alliance for Family Health, University of the South Pacific, Taulama Youth Centre, and the Foundation for the Peoples of the South Pacific.

Some of the obstacles encountered in creating a women's information centre included a lack of co-ordination among government ministries and

non-governmental organizations and a lack of effective leadership in women's issues in both government and non-governmental organizations. Because there was a strong need to establish a national women's focal point which could collect and disperse information, attempts had been made to design a women's desk within the Central Planning Department through the Informal Women's Working Committee.

Niue

In Niue, the Office for Women's Affairs had been established in 1983 under the Administration Department to function as a national focal point for women's affairs, but was moved in 1986 to the Department of Community Affairs. The Office had undertaken various projects and research activities for women such as a health survey in 1983, creating the Niue Women's Handicraft Co-operation, and implementing a meal planning and nutrition programme. It organized quarterly meetings to discuss issues of interest to women, and published newsletters, brochures, kits and posters to disseminate information. Critical topics were publicized through radio and television. Limited copies of slides and videos were kept at the office and additional space was required to keep properly all the information currently available. A proposal had been made to acquire more space for information storage under the Corporate Plan, however, it had not yet been approved.

Samoa

In Samoa, there was no officially recognized agency responsible for women's affairs, either within the Government or the non-governmental organizations. When the Women's Advisory Committee had been abolished in 1983, the Prime Minister had assumed responsibility for a women's portfolio, but no back-up administrative staff had been designated. At that time, the Prime Minister had announced that the National Council of Women would be the official channel of women's communication with the Government through the Rural Development Office. The proper mechanisms of communicating between government agencies and non-governmental organizations such as the National Council of Women, however, had yet to be defined. Non-governmental organizations focusing on women's issues had not accepted the National Council of Women as the national focal point.

Imposed groupings or solutions seldom worked, yet programme unity in Samoa was lacking and there were large areas of overlap and many gaps. More importantly, there was no central collecting agency for materials and resources. Information concerning women's affairs was scattered, sometimes directed to the Prime Minister's Office, the National Council of Women or other women's affairs groups. Appropriate receipt of women's information often depended on the goodwill of the person opening the mail and there was sufficient latitude for political maneuvering and delays to impede successful women's programmes. A central collecting agency was essential, whether located at a non-governmental organization office or within the Government. Co-ordination and effective communication between all agencies associated with women's interests was vital so that information was available and not lost. There must be an office with adequate personnel responsible, as a central body, for women's information and statistics, etc., on a continual basis.

Because the National Council of Women was a non-governmental organization, it shared all the strengths and weaknesses of such bodies. There were no paid staff or full-time administrative officers: all officers were volunteers. There was, therefore, at present no person with expertise in setting up and operating an information network and, most likely, no person capable of overseeing that task. The fact that the leadership positions at the Council were prestigious and sought by women who often had responsibilities in other fields suggested a severe limitation in the amount of time that those women were able to give to Council activities. Responsibility for office administration, therefore, was often delegated to different people, thus affecting the efficiency of daily and long-term programmes.

The National Council of Women had not yet ventured into written communication with its members, primarily because of the preference of the members for oral exchanges and the costs and expertise involved in preparing and distributing written materials. However, the need to begin documentation was urgent as many requests from researchers and volunteer workers for written materials on women had been received. Radio and television programmes had been a popular media form and their further use for information distribution was being considered by Council members. Regarding new technology for information processing, the Council had access to an Ultra Imagineering personal computer to update its files. It was hoped that its use would include desk-top publishing in the near future.

Vanuatu

There was no central information system in Vanuatu that collected information about and for women, apart from the Women's Affairs Office. Neither was there a dissemination centre for information relating to women nor a specific place where data on or for women were collected, preserved, or produced. There was also no specific mechanism for producing materials solely for women to use. The staff of various governmental and non-governmental organization services had been collecting information on women, but that was done in the course of their activities or duties and in their own areas of responsibility. Examples were health surveys on nutrition, mother and child care, family planning, statistics, educational data, agricultural information for farmers, and women's conferences. Of course, the Census and Statistics Department in the National Planning Office regularly conducted a national census, household surveys and agricultural surveys, which, although containing general information, could be used for research and analysis on particular areas of interest to women. Therefore, information could be retrieved from them and was available.

The Women's Affairs Office received information on women through personal contacts, interpersonal communication, workshops and national conferences. Community workers were the most useful sources of information about women in the various regions. Both the Women's Affairs Office and the Vanuatu National Council of Women received newsletters and publications from other organizations which they kept in their own offices. The information was needed at the two offices so that programmes concerning women could be appropriately formulated and successfully implemented. Information on women was essential for planners, policy makers, women's groups and the public. Publications from government systems were also sent to the women's national

organizations. There existed a vital need for an efficient network and the systems to send relevant information to women as well as to reproduce those materials for use by all women. The cost of realizing that extended approach was very high when covering 13 Island councils of women, 77 area councils and various individuals. There had been no newsletter to communicate news and events from any of the women's national offices. Communication between women had been through radio messages, radio programmes, conferences and workshops. Bislama was the language used for written and oral messages. Half-hour radio programmes were produced fortnightly. However, 30 minutes was not much time to relate adequate information to and about women.

An information centre within the Women's Affairs Office would be necessary in the future. Since it was the Government's central office for women, an abundance of information must be stored by that office and should be maintained and updated continuously and circulated to the public. Information could be used effectively in decision making but there needed to be a constant supply of such information, which was documentable. There was a need to strengthen the Women's Affairs Office, and set up effective and appropriate information systems for Vanuatu, to obtain maximum benefits for the women of Vanuatu. The systems of information collection, storage and usage should be efficient and easy to use. The information centre might include a system whereby information could be collected, processed and distributed to women with a network linkage at the national, regional and international level to monitor and exchange data and information on women's issues with other organizations.

Cook Islands

The Women's Development Division, Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Cook Islands, had been responsible for women's affairs. The Division was staffed by four officers on the main island of Rarotonga. Two officers were responsible for all matters relating to handicraft work and two oversaw all other women's work areas. Activities of the Women's Division included organizing and conducting training programmes at the national or community level. In addition, a women's craft shop was managed and operated by the handicraft section and sold products (mainly from the outer islands) produced by women.

The Cook Islands National Council of Women functioned as the overall co-ordinating and liaison body for all women's organizations in the Cook Islands. The Council, established in 1984, had a total membership of 27 women's groups. Those groups were either affiliated to a particular church or not. Social women's groups did not belong to any complex organizational structure like those attached to a church. In spite of that, those women's groups in the Cook Islands were free to decide whether to become a member of the National Council of Women. Like the Women's Affairs Division, the Council activities mainly focused on training women in vocational and leadership skills. Unfortunately, owing to financial constraints, most training was organized and conducted on Rarotonga, although the National Council of Women would have liked those programmes to be extended as much as possible to the outer islands.

The Cook Islands did not have a central agency or unit whose function was to collect data and information specifically on women, except for certain government departments such as the Health and Statistics Office, which collected limited data and information needed for the purposes of their work. Even then

the data and information collected were very limited. Although government and non-governmental women's organizations realize the need to collect all data and information relevant to women, they were hampered by the lack of financial and capital resources (equipment and materials) in satisfying that critical need. Statistics on women's organizations were kept by the individual organizations. That information was limited primarily to basic data on the number of members in the organization; their age; area of residency; whether they were employed or not; and so on. Some of that information is kept at the government Women's Office and by the Secretary and President of the Cook Islands National Council of Women.

The major methods of propagating information to women's groups throughout the Cook Islands was via the radio and local newspaper. Otherwise, information was relayed through direct correspondence among individuals. Unlike larger island States such as Fiji and Papua New Guinea, the Cook Islands faced the problem of insufficient financial resources and essential equipment and materials to package information for dissemination to women. To supplement that deficiency, agencies such as the World Health Organization and the South Pacific Commission mass produced technical information related to women (e.g., on health related matters) for distribution to women's groups. Furthermore, those organizations also assisted with the production and printing of posters, pamphlets and training kits for circulation to women's associations.

A fair number of women who were members of women's groups in their respective communities were aware of the use of high-technology equipment such as computers. In the modern age, the computer was seen as an efficient avenue of storing bulk information and data relating to women. Financial difficulties made it impossible to acquire that type of equipment. It was the hope of the Government and the non-governmental sector to establish a women's information unit by seeking external assistance. Once that has materialized it would help resolve most of the chronic needs of women regarding the packaging, storing and distribution of information.

Territory of American Samoa

The National Council of Women for American Samoa had been established in 1985 to co-ordinate all women-related issues. The Council was currently developing plans for a national women's centre, which would serve as a central office for collecting and disseminating information about women.

Tuvalu

In Tuvalu, the Women in Development Office had been established under the Ministry of Health, Education and Community Affairs in 1983 with one staff member, the Women's Development Officer. The Office was responsible for the collection and dissemination of information about women. However, it faced several problems:

(1) The role and expectations of the Women in Development Officer was undefined and little support and encouragement was received from various government officials, in particular the male officers;

(2) There was only one staff member working in the Women in Development Office and there was no additional support to the Office;

(3) The Women in Development Office had been shifted around within the Government so there was no permanent place where information collected could be stored; and

(4) Channels of information circulation had not been well established.

In Tuvalu the National Council of Women, established in 1981, acted as a link between all women's organizations in the capital and on outer islands and represented women's views to government through the Women in Development Office. Some of the problems encountered by the Council were:

(1) Most of the National Council of Women representatives did not have the experience and knowledge needed for the Council to seek assistance and communicate with other regional women's organizations for the better development of Tuvaluan women;

(2) There was no organized linkage whereby each island women's organization could reach the National Council of Women;

(3) No centre or co-ordinating office existed within the Council for the collection and dissemination of information;

(4) Radio programmes were seldom produced by the Council. The Broadcasting and Information Office tended to dominate the production of women's programmes without assistance and support from the Council or other women's interest groups;

(5) No newsletters, leaflets or other informational activities were provided by the Council to outer island women; and

(6) No plans were available for future activities.

Future hopes for the National Council of Women were to:

(1) Re-adopt the spirit of national unity in women of Tuvalu as supported by the former Prime Minister;

(2) Create a General Secretary for the National Council of Women who would be responsible for the implementation of its activities/programmes;

(3) Establish a centre or co-ordinating office where information on women could be collected and disseminated;

(4) Encourage better links with the Women in Development Officer for the co-ordination of national women's programmes;

(5) Conduct a survey on women's needs, views of women on the present status of the National Women's Council and design activities/programmes for women from the findings.

Information systems and networks could only be established and improved if the above points were first accomplished.

Federated States of Micronesia

In the Federated States of Micronesia, the Division of Foreign Affairs of the National Government had the function of co-ordinating women's training, travels and dissemination of women-related information to the Offices of the Governors in the states. Decision-making on women's affairs and issues was done at the state level. However, the absence of a women's office at both the national and state levels created a large obstacle to effective co-ordination between the national and state governments. Information, documents etc., were seldom communicated or circulated to the public and women's organizations.

In terms of networking, church groups and EFNEP (Food and Nutrition Education Programme) groups had a better system than other governmental or non-governmental organizations. Church groups (Women's Christian Associations) had built strong networks and close relations among the three sister states of Pohnpei, Kosrae and Truk and the Republic of the Marshall Islands. Travels or Women's Christian Association missions from one island to another in the region were headed by the traditional leaders and government leaders. EFNEP was a federally-funded programme under the College of Micronesia Extensions with its main office located at the College. Most of its work was community-based and, therefore, dissemination of information is done through radio broadcasts, lectures and demonstrations to smaller groups at the village level, etc.

Recipe books, nutrition posters and video-films had been produced by the EFNEP office and stored there. Health booklets, pamphlets and posters in local languages were developed by the public health nurses and disseminated through mini-workshops held at the village level. Also, the radio was used for health education, focusing on mothers.

In regard to needs of the Government, assistance from both ESCAP and other possible funding agencies would be required in the following areas:

(1) To establish a national council of women for the Federated States of Micronesia, a study needed to be conducted to determine the appropriate model which could accommodate the needs of the women with cultural diversities in the Federation; and

(2) Workshops on: (a) research, data and information collection skills; (b) leadership and management skills with a focus on the importance of professionalism; and (c) development of newsletters, women and cultural literacy.

Papua New Guinea

The Women's Division in Papua New Guinea had been set up under the Ministry of Home Affairs. It had drafted the first National Women's Policy to integrate women into policy making and development planning. The Women's Division had a library, but it did not function well owing to budgetary constraints. Under the National Women's Policy, priority has been given to increasing communication and information sharing among women's affairs officers and non-governmental organizations. To date, it had published a directory on Papua New Guinea's women leaders and a quarterly newsletter for women.

The Papua New Guinea National Council of Women had proposed establishing a national women's multi-purpose resource centre, which would include an information centre. It had established a network of women's organizations and activities country-wide since 1978. Information was relayed quickly and effectively through that network, but thus far there was no proper information centre to collect, document and distribute the various information. A few provincial women's councils had independently and successfully developed their own programmes.

In Papua New Guinea, where approximately 62 per cent of the population was illiterate and many still lived in remote villages, communication through the printed media was very limited. Non-formal media were more successful, e.g., posters, songs, theatre, and participatory and animated workshops. Many of them were currently produced by provincial women's organizations in collaboration with other resource persons. Radio programmes and newsletters were also used as broadcasting media, but skilled personnel and funds were rather limited. Some of the problems faced by the National Council of Women were:

(1) "Too much" overseas material for over-worked Papuan women activists, leaders and communicators to handle;

(2) Scant local-level production of life stories, testimonies, local surveys and research, etc.;

(3) Few opportunities for grass-roots women's leaders to attend meetings and have their statements heard or their stories published in professional/academic publications; and

(4) Too little emphasis on using the local languages and not enough effort to address and/or adapt to the indigenous social and economic realities.

The East Sepik Women's Development Documentation and Communication Programme was a unique programme in Papua New Guinea, aimed at documenting the experiences of village women's leaders and local activities in long-term development programmes and campaigns. The aim was to raise the status of women at the grassroots level, to make their contribution visible to male planners and decision makers, and to control the content and associated images of women in research and popular publications written about that province. The Programme was also concerned with bringing information about women, nationally, regionally and internationally, back to women so that they had a wider perspective and came to share a common identity with women's issues, struggles, achievements and creativity world-wide. Only recently the National Office of Women's Affairs had taken up the same aims. However, the advantage of the National Council of Women was its closeness to rural women and non-bureaucratic methods in ongoing development and educational programmes initiated and led by women.

Module 2: ***Management of women's information centres***

With regard to the regional effort on the development of women's information systems and networks, the Social Affairs Officer, Social Development Division, ESCAP, introduced the long-term ESCAP project on the Women's Information Network for Asia and the Pacific (WINAP) (document SD/WINAP-3/1989/M2-1).

Since the inception of the WINAP project in 1986, the WINAP regional centre based in the Social Development Division of ESCAP had implemented the following activities concerned with women's information:

(a) Convened a regional seminar on the development of the Women's Information Network for Asia and the Pacific (WINAP), 1-6 December 1986, Japan;

(b) Co-sponsored, with INSTRAW, national workshops in China, India, Indonesia and Sri Lanka on improving statistics and indicators on the social and economic situations of women;

(c) Developed data bases on selected indicators and statistics on the situation of women, women experts in Asia and the Pacific, national focal points for the advancement of women, and an annotated bibliography on women in development;

(d) Provided advisory services to ESCAP member countries on establishing and strengthening national women's information systems and networks;

(e) Published the *WINAP Newsletter, the Manual on Establishing and Strengthening National Women's Information Networks in Asia and the Pacific* and various directories and bibliographies on women's affairs;

(f) Organized two subregional training workshops on the management of women's information centres: one for the South Asian countries in December 1988 and the other for the East and South-East Asian countries in May/June 1989.

Future activities of the WINAP regional centre included a series of training workshops on the technical processing of information, to be held in 1990-1991, development of computerized data bases, a technical advisory mission and the continued publication of newsletters, directories and manuals.

Regarding the women's information network developed in the Pacific, Ms. Jillette Leon-Guerrero, Communication Officer, South Pacific Commission (SPC), introduced her paper (SD/WINAP-3/1989/M2-3). The SPC Pacific Women's Resource Bureau (PWRB) network extended not only to regional organizations and agencies but world-wide to include international and regional development and aid agencies, women's organizations, special interest groups and government agencies, media and journal reports, individuals in contact with officers of the SPC Pacific Women's Resource Bureau, and programmes of the South Pacific Commission. The Bureau processed information from those sources, and organized, stored, repackaged and returned it to those same sources and others. A variety of communication methods were used to share information, from individual communication routes via the telephone, telex and telefax to group and mass communication modes.

Staff had encountered several problems hindering effective communication in the Pacific, including: *bureaucratic red tape* because of the channels the Bureau must use to share information with women in the region. PWRB could not contact non-governmental organizations directly but must channel all official correspondence through the official government SPC liaison persons for each

country. Recently efforts had been made to change that situation when the 29th South Pacific Conference had considered the recommendation made by the 4th Regional Women's Conference to allow the Bureau to have direct contact with non-governmental organizations.

Because some SPC countries had objected, that recommendation had not been endorsed and without that endorsement the policy could not change. Participants felt that perhaps efforts could be made at the national level to encourage each Government to support direct contact between the Bureau and non-governmental organizations. Other obstacles included: faulty/inefficient communication systems, i.e., bad telephone, telex, fax lines; slow postal service and irregular airline schedules; low priority for women's interests; personal interests; ignorance of importance in passing the information on, and lack of skills in commuting information. Discussion centred on ways women's organizations could become self-sufficient. Many felt that that was difficult at the national level. It was pointed out that the Bureau had a credit scheme project that women's organizations could take advantage of to obtain loans to start income-generating projects.

It was also noted that because of its association with a regional agency PWRB was not as autonomous as a non-governmental organization. It was further suggested that perhaps in the next year or two the Bureau could cease to operate if the SPC management so decided. Clarification was given on the growing stability of the Bureau. The inclusion of three staff positions in the 1991 core budget ensured the continuation of the Bureau and decreased visibility had resulted in renewed interest by funding agencies. Participants agreed that more of an effort, at the national level, to share information with PWRB was needed.

The information network system of the National Women's Education Centre (NWEC), Japan, was introduced as an example by Ms. Hiroko Hashimoto of NWEC (document SD/WINAP-3/1989/M2-4). To enhance understanding of the topic, she began her presentation with an explanation of the background to the establishment of NWEC, its purpose and its activities, supplemented by a video film entitled *Introduction to NWEC*.

NWEC had been established in 1977 as the only nationally financed women's centre to promote women's consciousness-raising through the provision of practical training of the leaders of women's education and conducting specialized research in the field. The establishment of the centre had been supported by the national policy outlined in Japan's National Plan of Action and had been strongly demanded by Japanese women's organizations.

In order to pursue its objectives, the Centre organized various programmes under the following four categories:

(1) Study: to organize workshops and national seminars for leaders of women's organizations, co-ordinators of parent education classes, and local women's centres' staff;

(2) Exchange: to provide opportunities and facilities to promote exchanges and networking among individuals and groups both nationally and internationally;

(3) Research: to conduct research and surveys on women's studies, family education, history of women's education. information processing on women's issues, women's consciousness-raising for successful re-entry into the labour market, etc.; and

(4) Information: the last and most important category of "information" functioned primarily at the Information Centre on Women's Education.

The Centre had the largest and richest library on women and family issues in Japan and in the region. The Centre collected information and materials at the national and international level, either on a publication exchange basis or through a human network. The core of the human network was users of and visitors to the Centre, on average over 100,000 per year, both men and women. The Centre had received about 7,000 foreigners from 118 countries since its debut.

The Centre had introduced an office computer linked with an optical disc system to create various data bases on women's issues after developing its *Thesaurus on Women and Family Issues* in 1987. Unable to provide an on-line information retrieval service because of the computer's limited capacity and capability, the Centre was requesting that the Government allocate funds to install a mainframe computer to provide a national and international publicly available computer network.

The Centre proposed two types of training programmes for personnel in charge of processing information on women's issues, nationally and regionally. The latter was entitled *NWEC Training Course for Information Processing on Women's Issues*. It had been initiated by NWEC to satisfy strong demands from Asian participants during the NWEC organized International Seminar on Women's Information Network System in 1985, 1987 and 1988. Four trainees (from fiscal year 1990, five trainees) would be invited from national focal points on women's issues in Asia and the Pacific. The course focused on the utilization of DBMS and ready-made soft-ware to create data bases on women's issues through microcomputers, according to requests from countries in the region.

Following the presentation, participants raised questions about the training course. For example, (a) procedure for selecting countries to send a trainee each year, and (b) the possibility of obtaining a microcomputer by donation. A resource person stressed the necessity of basic skills training which might be especially required for Pacific countries where few microcomputers were installed at women's national focal points. Another question was about the availability of a collection of books and other publications on aboriginal women in Japan at the NWEC information centre.

Ms. Anne S. Walker, International Women's Tribune Centre, introduced the issue of "networking among women: an international perspective". It included such topics as what was networking, how can you start networking, how to use the networking book, how to start formal and informal networking, types of women's networks, categories of information networks for women, network of networks and activities of the International Women's Tribune Centre.

The presentation on networking covered a discussion on the process of networking and the different types of networks operating among women globally. As an introduction to the networking process, each workshop participant was supplied with a networking book and told to interview three other group members to discover their name and major skill or expertise. The book was an initial step towards each participant's own network record.

In a discussion of the formal and informal nature of international networking among women, the often transitory nature of the process and the benefits of a system that did not require an extensive secretariat but rather depended on each network "member's" participation, different types of networks were highlighted. They included: professional networks; subject-specific networks; region-specific networks; organizational networks; and support networks around many different issues related to women's interests, needs and problems.

As an example of the development of informal networks among women, Ms. Junko Kuninobu, Lecturer, Meijyo University, Japan, introduced the activities of women's non-governmental organizations in Japan. According to cluster analysis data on Japanese women, she noted that there were four categories: (a) profession-oriented women, (b) social activity-oriented women, (c) average working housewives and (d) home-oriented housewives. While Cluster (a) was the most active group to organize and serve in women's organizations, Cluster (b) was too busy participating in social and hobby-related activities. Cluster (c) was oriented towards traditionally female field activities such as parent-teacher associations, hobbies and volunteer and community services and Cluster (d) was the home-oriented and mainly involved in non-social activities, like hobbies. The number of women's organizations in Japan was estimated at three to four million including small grass-roots organizations. Among those, only 20 per cent were social-issue-oriented organizations.

The most popular methods of organizing women's groups were the following (1) several individuals became aware of problems and started organizing themselves; (2) existing women's organizations increased the number of local organizations; and (3) the Government, at the local or national level, motivated women to start developing new organizations.

Printed materials, such as newspapers, newsletters, pamphlets, wall newspapers, books, comics, etc., were the most effective means for women's information networking. In Japan 95-97 per cent of all households owned televisions and radios, through which information was quickly broadcast. The media, however, were controlled primarily by men as very few women were at the decision-making level and actually producing news programmes. The woman's viewpoint needed to be expressed in the Japanese media.

Questions were asked on the traditional Japanese women's image and on the recent underscoring of politically active women. The global image of Japanese women was perceived as subservient and docile. But that image was promulgated by male-oriented media, both in Japan and outside. Japanese women had always been politically and socially active, sometimes even aggressive, but the persistent image had been quite the opposite. Recent women's political activities had been quite well broadcast in other countries owing to the introduction of the new taxation system. It had increased the difficulties in women's daily lives, in their roles as housewives and labourers. Household expenditures had increased and many Japanese women had noticed that the kitchen was directly connected to politics. As seen at the Workshop, motivating women through specific and concrete facts could enable them to take action on social issues.

Ms. Cema Bolabola and Ms. Ameliana Afeaki from the University of the South Pacific (USP), Suva, discussed the possibility of using USP extension services continuing education programme to strengthen the capacity of women's information officers. The continuing education programme had been developed at USP campuses in 11 Pacific countries and covered such topics as women's leadership training, childcare, arts and crafts, English and music. It had been developed to fill the gap in people's knowledge and prepare them for university studies. The participants expressed interest in using the programme for training in library science and other technical skills in processing information about women.

Ms. Janet Hunt, Australian Council for Overseas Aid (ACFOA), introduced the National Women's Consultative Council (NWCC) in Australia and discussed how NWCC used networking and information to influence government policy. She outlined: (1) the relationship between the Office of the Status of Women (OSW), other parts of government and NWCC; (2) the membership of NWCC - with a wide variety of national women's organizations - and meetings held and resources available; (3) the roles of NWCC - identifying priority issues facing women, providing advice to the Government, keeping women informed of government actions, lobbying, preparing a budget for submission, using the media and organizing activities to raise awareness on women's issues and the political education of women; (4) how NWCC used networking to affect policy - how it gathered information by consulting with individual women affected by decisions made or about to be made; women with specific expertise; gathering data already available; conducting research; consulting with special groups (e.g. older women); organizing meetings for women to share problems and plan actions; (5) how it presented its case to different parts of government, e.g. bureaucratic procedures in different departments, and to various Ministers and their staff; and (6) if a problem arose, what NWCC could do, for example, (i) identify where the problem or obstacle was, and (ii) inform women what the problem was and what they could do about it. That was achieved by informing individual women, using the mass media and informing women through newsletters, which could then motivate women into taking action at the local level, such as writing to newsletters, speaking on radio talkback programmes, writing letters to or visiting members of parliament and writing letters to Ministers. At the same time, NWCC made formal submissions to the Government.

Ms. Hunt illustrated that process by explaining how research was carried out on women's knowledge of STDs to develop a case for an information programme for women on STDs; how case studies and existing data were used to support a case for a training programme for women losing their sole parent's pension, and how that was supported by using the media and by lobbying; how some questions to the Minister and bureaucrats and subsequent letters written by women's organizations had ensured that the National Agenda for Women included an international section.

The questions and discussion included the influence the Minister on the Status of Women had on other Ministers, the ways women could encourage women voters to think about women's issues when they voted and not just vote as their husbands did, how a group of Vanuatu women had accomplished Hilda Lini's election; how few resources there were and how difficult it was for women to organize themselves in some countries (e.g. no space in their houses, no telephones, high cost of photocopying, etc.).

Module 3: ***Collection, analysis and organization of women's information***

The Regional Adviser on Population Censuses and Surveys, Statistics Division, ESCAP, introduced the general concept of socio-economic indicators and statistics on women. He discussed: (1) who needed statistics on the situation of women; (2) why statistics were needed; (3) what the main sources of data on the situation of women in the Pacific were; and (4) the advantages and disadvantages of census, survey and administrative records.

Ms. Heather Booth, former Demographic Officer, South Pacific Commission, then further elaborated the socio-economic indicators and statistics on Pacific women. She noted that Pacific women had been striving for improved statistics and indicators on women since the 1980s after identifying the absence of appropriate data as a major reason for the omission of women from development planning. A first initiative in the improvement of data had been the South Pacific Commission project on socio-economic statistics on women, implemented in 1986/87. The project had included a review of the data and data collection systems in five Pacific countries, followed by a workshop on socio-economic statistics on women attended by women's representatives and statisticians, which had made recommendations on how to improve socio-economic statistics on women. That, and the recommendations of the 1988 UNDP/UNIFEM/UNFPA project formulation mission to plan for women in mainstream development, had led to the formulation of an additional three-year project designed to train women's representatives and statisticians in the improvement of statistical data on women.

Data on women were needed for two important purposes: for use in the integration of women's issues into development planning, and for use by women in their advocacy, monitoring and educational roles. Women played an important role in defining and advising statisticians which statistical data were required to meet women's needs and in interpreting data and communicating it to others. It was noted that there was no fixed set of data requirements because data needs depended upon women's specific needs, and that it was better to adopt a gradual approach to the improvement of data after existing data had been exploited.

In general, data were needed in the area of employment, especially rural women's employment where data were widely recognized as being inadequate. For example, the categorization of women as housewives was at the expense of not categorizing them as active in agriculture, fishing or handicraft production. Existing educational data were more adequate, as were demographic data. However, data on women's health and legal, political and social status were of varied quality. Data were also needed on males to provide a comparison, or on special groups of women such as rural and urban women.

Improvements in the availability of relevant data on Pacific women could be made by changing the unit in surveys and censuses from the household to the individual. There also existed a need to alter attitudes and to explain women's concerns to statisticians. Training in statistical communication for women was needed to enable women to discuss their needs with statisticians; and statisticians needed training in how to change their data production systems to accommodate women's needs. A regional project was planned to provide such training at regional and country levels, as well as to establish a regional gender-specific data base. The latter initiative was seen as a means of improving the regional exchange of information on women.

The discussion focused on the role of women in consultation with statisticians through, for example, data users' committees. Women were not involved in such committees, either because they did not realize the importance of being so, or because they felt unable to contribute. It was also felt that existing data did not always present an accurate picture and that women needed to be aware of that.

Ms. Hazel Williams, Library Assistant, University of the South Pacific, introduced the acquisition and organization of materials needed for setting up a women's information centre. She explained how to exchange and purchase necessary publications and how to organize cataloguing and classification of publications. She also introduced the work on women done by the University of the South Pacific Extension Service Centre at Suva, such as the compilation of bibliographies on women in the Pacific, and the courses offered by the Centre on information processing.

Regarding participatory action research, which was considered one of the important activities of a women's information centre, Ms. Cema Bolabola, Lecturer, Fiji Centre, University of the South Pacific, Suva, presented research skills relevant to Pacific women and their needs. A brief lecture introduced to the participants the necessity for research if they were to gather, analyse and disseminate views, ideas and statistics relating to women. The lecture attempted to demystify the term "research" (locally considered to be exclusively done by university people). Macro research done by women could be more meaningful for the women researched than large-scale research that would be published without follow-up action to improve the situation of women. Small-scale research was also promoted because Pacific women's organizations had limited resources and faced difficulties in obtaining funds for women's projects and even more difficulties obtaining research funds. Small-scale research was recommended also as ideal for Pacific women as the majority of Pacific women's organizations depended on volunteers rather than on fully-paid women personnel. Another reason for recommending small-scale research was the ease of identifying a project as a follow-up activity to the research work.

As background information, some terms were introduced, including *concepts* and related measurable *indicators* and the need to make a *hypothesis* for any research on women that participants would carry out. The various types of research were mentioned, especially action research which most women's groups could carry out as part of their project identification exercise.

The lecture also outlined general steps for conducting small-scale conventional research by a social survey as well as the general methods of survey and data gathering. Survey methods and examples discussed included simple sampling, case studies, bibliographical and participant observation methods. The use of questionnaires, one of the most popular methods used to gather response in a survey, was also discussed.

A series of activities had been prepared as part of the section in which the participants carried out a hypothetical survey to assess the situation of women vendors in a typical Pacific urban market. The participants were divided into four discussion groups as imaginary project committees for a women's organization. They were provided with a list of key issues on which to find information as the basis for the survey and to make a hypothesis on the research

topic discussed. A sample questionnaire was furnished as a guideline for a typical questionnaire that would be developed given the information to be collected about the women vendors. The participants discussed other additional information that they wished to collect and deleted items they deemed not necessary. The follow-on activity involved simple skills in the manual analysis of questionnaires and the design of a master spreadsheet, and the possible identification of simple tables that said a lot about the characteristics of women vendors and their situation in a typical Pacific market. Very limited time was available for the subsequent discussion relating to the various activities.

There appeared to be general interest in participatory research practised by some women's groups as a method of decision-making. The approach would propagate in the Pacific as the decision-making process sounded familiar to women and a written report of the process could be descriptively recorded by the women and analytically by the researcher/facilitator. Time limited further discussion on that very interesting research approach, which would be most ideal for small Pacific women's organizations. The participants should make use of the publication provided and if possible translate it into the vernacular with some help from the Continuing Education, Extension Services of the University of the South Pacific.

It appeared that the majority of the participants had some research topics of interest but did not know how to start a research proposal on the topic owing to a lack of articulation and research skills. Although a few participants had had some experience in women studies, the majority of the participants exhibited great enthusiasm in learning the few concepts and skills relating to research in a very limited time. The majority of participants agreed that the time allocated for the topic was too short. Research was best taught by field work, which could take one to two weeks to acquire basic skills relating to collecting and analysing information and reporting on a survey. Participants were most interested in the development of questionnaires, designing a master spreadsheet and tabulation. Some participants inquired of the consultant about the possibility of offering in-country training for selected women researchers through the Extension Services of the University of the South Pacific.

Module 4: ***Production of media materials on women's issues***

Ms. Elizabeth Cox and Ms. Anne S. Walker jointly organized a total of eight sessions under Module 4.

Session 1: Identifying problems and issues that affect women

This session was intended to be a general introduction to facilitate the workshop participants to think about the way in which problems and issues were defined in their respective women's programmes and how problem identification forms a basis for planning, information collection and media/communication production. The sessions attempted to maintain a consciousness of stereotyping and of the personal and political biases which affect our judgement and of the important role of information gathering. As part of that session, the participants were divided into groups by country/subregion to focus on problems and issue identification in their own women's programmes.

Session 2: Production of a board game on women's issues

A board game called "slides and ladders" was introduced to raise the level of consciousness among participants on what makes women move forward and backward. Each participant developed the board game, some in English and others in their own languages.

Session 3: Media campaign on domestic violence against women: the Case of Papua New Guinea

This case study had been prepared in conjunction with the Women and Law Committee in Papua New Guinea. It included a display on and discussion about the preparation, production, publication, distribution and application of, and local innovations deriving from all the different media products developed in this campaign. Participants were supplied with sample posters and pamphlets, as well as a descriptive paper.

At the end of the presentation there were a few questions, followed by screening of the video film "Stap Isi".

Session 4: Development of your own media strategies

Based upon the above case studies in Papua New Guinea, the development of media strategies was introduced, e.g., types of media materials to be produced, their objectives, location, time and audience.

Session 5: "Hands on" practical workshop

Freehand lettering and simple line drawings using marker pens were introduced by Anne S. Walker.

Session 6: Using minimal equipment to produce media materials

The first part of that session was presented together with many useful examples of the processes and methods appropriate for basic women's information centres. Ms. Mary Soondrawu of Papua New Guinea gave a simple description of those processes as practised at the East Sepik Women's Resource Centre in Wewak, Papua New Guinea.

The second part of the session included a demonstration on the use of some simple equipment - a light box, an episcope and a slide projector - all of which could be effectively used in conjunction with graphic and photographic collections. The equipment permitted the production of low-cost poster images and illustrations for books and pamphlets. After some practice it was possible to produce visual images which were locally relevant, recognizable and professional-looking. It could be a very useful skill in the repackaging and dissemination of information for semi-literate, or even illiterate target groups.

At the end of the session participants were introduced to the idea of shell books, and each participant had the opportunity to make up one of their own, based on the information, ideas and skills presented in the session. Each participant also made some attempt to trace an image using photographic material.

Session 7: Introduction to Pacific Women's Workroom

Following a short introduction, participants chose an activity area to begin their work. Those areas were screen printing, shell books, poster making and radio interviews. Participants alternated so that everyone could learn those four areas in the full-day session.

Session 8: Show and tell

The finished media materials were exhibited and their potential use in dispersing information to all the women in each country and the region was discussed.

Module 5: ***New information technology and its application to women's information systems***

Ms. Susan Phelps, Computer Manager, Pacific International Trust Company, Port Vila, introduced the basic concepts of a computer and its applications, namely, word-processing, desk-top publishing, spreadsheets and data bases. Several micro-computer terminals were brought into the conference room and the participants enjoyed the hands-on experience on a micro-computer system.

Ms. Carmen McFarlane and Mr. Graham Templeman, Consultants, United Nations Statistical Office, New York, briefly explained the management of national, regional and international statistical data bases. The Women's Indicators and Statistics (WISTAT) data base developed by the Statistical Office was also introduced. WISTAT covered all countries and areas in the United Nations system with a population of 100,000 persons or more, supplying information to the divisions of the Secretariat and the specialized agencies of the United Nations. Participants made strong requests to the consultants that more data on Pacific women should be included in that data base.

Module 6: ***Development of future action plans***

The participants were divided into three groups, namely, Polynesian, Meranesian and Micronesian groups, to discuss: (1) how to use knowledge and skills they gained from the Workshop; (2) what would be their action plans/programmes to establish/strengthen their national women's information centres; (3) what kind of regional women's information network should be developed for the Pacific; and (4) what were the recommendations for the following workshop to be scheduled for the Pacific countries towards the end of 1990, including topics, people to be represented, time, venue, duration, etc.

The Polynesian group recommended that a national women's information centre should start small, using locally available resources as much as possible. It also suggested the following for the next subregional workshop: (1) more time should be spent on computer training and development of media materials, especially radio programmes; (2) at least two persons should be invited from each country, one from government and the other from a non-governmental organization; (3) more Pacific resource persons should be utilized; and (4) the duration should be about two weeks.

The members of the Meranesian group stated that they would work hard on establishing multi-purpose centres for women at the national and provincial levels and develop effective communication networks among the centres. They also planned to organize national and provincial training workshops for women leaders on the development of women's information centres. Regarding the Pacific regional network, they felt that the Pacific Women's Resource Bureau, SPC, should be strengthened and be relocated from New Caledonia to Fiji which was considered a communication centre for the Pacific. The group suggested for the next Pacific workshop that: (1) country papers should be presented reviewing progress made in establishing or strengthening national women's information centres between the current Workshop and the following one; (2) more practical sessions should be introduced, such as making dramas and plays on women's issues and making radio interviews and programmes; (3) basic skill trainings on computers should be provided; (4) the draft workshop programme should be circulated beforehand to the possible participants for their comments; (5) participants at the next workshop should be almost the same as at the present Workshop and women in media services should also be included; (6) duration of the next workshop should be of two to three weeks' duration and the timing be around October 1990. The months of November and December should be avoided; and (7) local resource persons should be utilized more. The members of the group also mentioned that they would start organizing subregional workshops on the women's information networks in the Meranesian region.

The members of the Micronesian group said that they had gained valuable knowledge and experience on networking, media resources, and on government/non-governmental organization co-operation on information networking, among other things. They would enhance the existing information centres, make maximum use of media resources on women's issues and establish a national women's information centre through a media campaign, legislation and resolutions. Regarding the Pacific women's network, they recommended that the Pacific Women's Resource Bureau should co-ordinate with WINAP to establish a resource management committee on women's information in the Pacific. They recommended for the next Pacific workshop that: (1) workshop topics should include collection and evaluation of statistics on women and information and communication systems; (2) participants should be almost the same as at the present Workshop; (3) The workshop should be of about two weeks' duration and be held in Fiji, Kiribati or Papua New Guinea around July 1990; (4) more regional resource persons should be invited to the next workshop.

After the group presentations, the participants discussed the venue of the next workshop. Fiji, Kiribati, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or Papua New Guinea were suggested as possible venues. They agreed, however, to leave the final decision to the ESCAP secretariat which would consider a Government's agreement to act as host, expenses which would be incurred and other items.

Closing of the Workshop

The Workshop was closed by the Head of the ESCAP Pacific Operations Centre, and Mr. Nikenike Vurobaravu, Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Government of Vanuatu.

Annex I

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Ms. Carmen Castro-Gaskins, Research and Information Officer, Women's Affairs Office, Office of the Governor, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Ms. Paz Younis, First Vice President, Northern Mariana Islands National Council of Women, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Ms. Ngatupuna Teariki, Assistant Women's Development Officer, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Rarotonga, Cook Islands.

Ms. Ngaupoko Bertram, Assistant Treasurer, Cook Islands National Council of Women, Rarotonga, Cook Islands.

Ms. Keti N. William, Department of Education, Kosrae State, Federated States of Micronesia.

Ms. SeNellie P. Singeo, Executive Director, Pohnpei Community Action Agency, Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia.

Ms. Reama K. Vulaca, Women's Interest Assistant, Department for Women and Culture, Ministry for Women, Cultural and Social Welfare, Suva, Fiji.

Ms. Frances T. Loga, Secretary, National Council of Women, Fiji (NCWF), Suva, Fiji.

Ms. Bwenataake Euta, Community Officer, Ministry of Home Affairs and Decentralisation, Tarawa, Republic of Kiribati.

Ms. Vitolia Sialemisa Kulatea, Community Development Officer, Community Affairs Department, Government of Niue, Alofi, Niue.

Ms. Suzanne T. Elias, Provincial Women's Officer, Community Services Branch, Department of Southern Highlands, Mendi, Papua New Guinea.

Ms. Mary Soondrawu, Senior Government Liaison Officer, East Sepik, Women's Resource Centre, Wewak, Papua New Guinea.

Ms. Tanella S. Lokeijak, Director, Women's Affairs, Ministry of Social Services, Majuro, Republic of the Marshall Islands.

Ms. Daisy Alik-Momotaro, Secretary, National Council of Women/WUTMI, Majuro, Republic of the Marshall Islands.

Ms. Margie L. Blailes, Community Development Specialist, Bureau of Community Services, Ministry of Social Services, Koror, Republic of Palau.

Ms. Faustina K. Rehuher, Socio-Political-Cultural/Consultant, DIDIL BELAU Association, Koror, Republic of Palau.

Ms. Peggy Fairbairn-Dunlop, Representative, Western Samoa National Council of Women, Apia, Samoa.

Ms. Pisila Asiata, Vice-President, Western Samoa Women's Committees Development Organization, Apia, Samoa.

Ms. Virginia Pilua, Women's Development Officer, Women's Development Division, Tulagi, Central Province, Solomon Islands.

Ms. Doreen Sam, Communications Officer, Solomon Islands National Council of Women, Honiara, Solomon Islands.

Ms. Ruth A. Te'o, Treasurer, Pan Pacific and South East Asia Women's Association, Pago Pago, Territory of American Samoa.

Ms. Evelini Mila, Women's Development Officer, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Government of Tonga, Nuku'alofa, Tonga.

Ms. Fuiva Kavaliku, President, FeFine'i Fonua 'o Tonga, Nuku'alofa, Tonga.

Ms. Saini Kautu, Women's Development Officer, Ministry of Health Education and Community Affairs, Funafuti, Tuvalu.

Ms. Lilian Falealuga, Representative, Tuvalu National Council of Women of Tuvalu, Funafuti, Tuvalu.

Ms. Merilyn R. Tahi, Representative, Women's Affairs Office, Prime Minister's Office, Government of Vanuatu, Vanuatu.

Ms. Henlyn Saul, Social Development Officer, Women's Affairs Office, Prime Minister's Office, Government of Vanuatu, Vanuatu.

United Nations secretariat

Ms. Carmen McFarlane, Consultant, United Nations Statistical Office (UNSO), New York.

Mr. Graham Templeman, Consultant, United Nations Statistical Office (UNSO), New York.

United Nations bodies

Ms. Cindy Low Gauvreau, Assistant Programme Officer, United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), Suva, Fiji.

Ms. Riet Groenen, Programme Management Officer, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), Suva, Fiji.

Specialized agencies

Ms. Nelien Haspels, Training and Employment Promotion Officer, International Labour Organisation (ILO), Suva, Fiji.

Dr. J.A. Hazbun, Country Liaison Officer, World Health Organization (WHO), Port Vila, Vanuatu.

Intergovernmental organization

Ms. Louise Aitsi-McMahon, Women's Programme Co-ordinator, PWRB, South Pacific Commission, Noumea, New Caledonia.

Other organizations

Ms. Miriam Vurobaravu, Director, University of the South Pacific (USP), Port Vila, Vanuatu.

Ms. Emiliana Afeaki, Head, Continuing Education, Extension Services, University of the South Pacific (USP), Suva, Fiji.

Observers

Ms. Hilda Lini, Member of Parliament, Prime Minister's Office, Government of Vanuatu, Port Vila, Vanuatu.

Ms. Grace Molisa, Private Secretary to the Prime Minister, Prime Minister's Office, Government of Vanuatu, Port Vila, Vanuatu.

Ms. Jennifer Manua, Vice President, Vanuatu National Council of Women (VNCW), Port Vila, Vanuatu.

Mr. Pioni Willie, National Planning and Statistics Office (NPSO), Port Vila, Vanuatu.

Resource persons

Ms. Heather Booth, Consultant, Noumea, New Caledonia.

Ms. Cema Bolabola, Lecturer, Fiji Centre, University of the South Pacific, Suva, Fiji.

Ms. Elizabeth Cox, Consultant, Training Materials, Women's Division, Ministry of Home Affairs, Boroko, Papua New Guinea.

Ms. Hiroko Hashimoto, Head, Information and International Exchange Division, National Women's Education Centre, Saitama, Japan.

Ms. Janet Hunt, Campaign Co-ordinator, Australian Council for Overseas Aid (ACFOA), Canberra, Australia.

Ms. Junko Kuninobu, Lecturer, School of Commerce, Department of Junior College, Meijyo University, Japan.

Ms. Jillette Leon-Guerrero, Women's Communications Officer, Pacific Women's Resource Bureau, South Pacific Commission, Noumea, New Caledonia.

Ms. Susan Phelps, Computer Manager, Pacific International Trust Company, Port Vila, Vanuatu.

Ms. Naomi Shimizu, Japan Overseas Co-operation Volunteers (JOCV) Staff, Department for Women and Culture, Suva, Fiji.

Ms. Anne S. Walker, Director, International Women's Tribune Centre, New York, United States.

Ms. Hazel Williams, Library Assistant, University of the South Pacific, Port Vila, Vanuatu.

ESCAP secretariat

Mr. Savenaca Siwatibau, Head, ESCAP Pacific Operations Centre, Port Vila, Vanuatu.

Ms. Fanuara Kingstone, Social Development Adviser, ESCAP Pacific Operations Centre, Port Vila, Vanuatu.

Mr. Hardip Singh, Administrative Officer, ESCAP Pacific Operations Centre, Port Vila, Vanuatu.

Ms. Yumiko Tanaka, Social Affairs Officer, Women in Development Section, Social Development Division.

Ms. Daranee de Souza, Secretary, Women in Development, Social Development Division.

Mr. Laurence H. Lewis, Regional Adviser on Population Censuses and Surveys, Statistics Division.

Annex II

WORKSHOP SCHEDULE

Monday, 13 November

0900 Official opening session:

1. Traditional and custom session:
   Traditional presentation of gifts and dancing
2. Opening prayer by:
   Pastor Tom Tali, Vanuatu Christian Council
3. Message of Mr. S.A.M.S. Kibria, Executive Secretary, ESCAP, read by:
   Mr. Savenaca Siwatibau, Head, ESCAP Pacific Operations Centre
4. Inaugural address and official opening by:
   Hon. Father Walter H. Lini, Prime Minister of Vanuatu, and Minister responsible for the Office of Women's Affairs
5. Keynote speech by:
   Ms. Hilda Vagaahu Lini, Member of Parliament, Vanuatu
6. Closing prayer by:
   Pastor Tom Tali, Vanuatu Christian Council

1100-1130 Workshop orientation

Ms. Fanaura Kingstone

Ms. Yumiko Tanaka

1330-1630 Module 1. *Review and appraisal of national women's information and mechanisms*

(Presentation of country papers by participants)

Tuesday, 14 November

0830-1130 Module 1. (cont'd)

1330-1500 Module 3. *Collection, analysis and organization of women's information*

Lecture on socio-economic indicators and statistics [Laurence H. Lewis]

Tuesday, 14 November *(cont'd)*

1515-1630	Module 3. (cont'd) Group discussion on socio-economic indicators and statistics
1630-1800	Module 3. (cont'd) Presentation of group reports

Wednesday, 15 November

0830-1000	Module 3. (cont'd) Lecture on socio-economic indicators and statistics on women in the Pacific [by Heather Booth]
1015-1130	Module 2. *Management of women's information centres* Introduction of WINAP (by Yumiko Tanaka]
1330-1500	Module 2. (cont'd) Introduction of SPC women's network [by Jillette Leon-Guerrero]
1515-1630	Module 2. (cont'd) Introduction of NWEC network in Japan [by Hiroko Hashimoto]

Thursday, 16 November

0830-1000	Module 2. (cont'd) Networking among women: on international perspectives [by Anne S. Walker]
1015-1200	Module 2. (cont'd) Introduction of NGO network in Japan [by Junko Kuninobu]
1300-1500	Introduction of USP network on continuing education [by Cema Bolabola and Ameliana Afeaki] Introduction of NGO network in Australia [by Janet Hunt]

Friday, 17 November

0830-1000 Module 3. *Collection, analysis and organization of women's information*

Acquisition and organization of materials
[by Hazel Williams]

1015-1130 Module 3. (cont'd)

Discussion on acquisition and organization of materials and how to start setting up information centres

1330-1500 Module 4. *Production of media materials on women's issues*

Session 1: Identifying problems and issues that affect women
[by Elizabeth Cox]

1515-1630 Module 4. (cont'd)
Session 2: Production of a board game on women's issues
[by Anne S. Walker]

Monday, 20 November

0830-1130 Module 3. *Collection, analysis and organization of women's information*

Lecture on research skills relevant to Pacific women
[by Cema Bolabola]

1330-1500 Module 4. *Production of media materials on women's issues*

Session 3: Media campaign on domestic violence against women: the case of Papua New Guinea
[by Elizabeth Cox and Anne S. Walker]

1515-1630 Module 4. (cont'd)

Session 4: Development of your own Media Strategies
[by Anne S. Walker]

Tuesday, 21 November

0830-1000 Module 4. (cont'd)

Session 5: "Hands-on" practical workshop
[conducted by Anne S. Walker]

1015-1130 Module 4. (cont'd)

Session 5: Basics of poster design and page layout for publications
[by Anne S. Walker]

Tuesday, 21 November *(cont'd)*

1330-1630	Module 4. (cont'd) Session 6: Using minimal equipment to produce media materials [by Elizabeth Cox]

Wednesday, 22 November

0830-1130	Module 4. (cont'd) Session 7: Introduction to: Pacific Women's Workroom
1330-1500	Module 4. (cont'd)
1515-1630	Module 4. (cont'd) Session 8: Show and tell

Thursday, 23 November

0830-1130	Module 5. *New information technology and its application to women's information systems* [by Susan Phelps]
1330-1630	Module 5. (cont'd)

Friday, 24 November

0830-1000	Module 6. *Development of future action plans*
1015-1130	Module 6. (cont'd) Group discussion
1330-1500	Module 6. (cont'd) Plenary
1515-1630	Closing

Annex III

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

Number	*Title*
	Official opening programme
	Tentative schedule
	Work programme
	Message of Mr. S.A.M.S. Kibria, Executive Secretary, ESCAP
	Keynote address by: Ms. Hilda Lini, Member of Parliament, Government of Vanuatu
	Inaugural address by: Hon. Father Walter H. Lini, Prime Minister of Vanuatu, and Minister responsible for the Office of Women's Affairs.
	Country reports:
	(Module 1: Review and appraisal of national women's information mechanisms)
SD/WINAP-3/1989/M1-1	Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
SD/WINAP-3/1989/M1-2	Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
SD/WINAP-3/1989/M1-3	Guam
SD/WINAP-3/1989/M1-4	Guam
SD/WINAP-3/1989/M1-5	Republic of Kiribati
SD/WINAP-3/1989/M1-6	Republic of Palau
SD/WINAP-3/1989/M1-7	Republic of Palau
SD/WINAP-3/1989/M1-8	Solomon Islands
SD/WINAP-3/1989/M1-9	Solomon Islands
SD/WINAP-3/1989/M1-10	Fiji
SD/WINAP-3/1989/M1-11	Fiji

Number	*Title*
SD/WINAP-3/1989/M1-12	Republic of the Marshall Islands
SD/WINAP-3/1989/M1-13	Tonga
SD/WINAP-3/1989/M1-14	Tonga
SD/WINAP-3/1989/M1-15	Niue
SD/WINAP-3/1989/M1-16	Samoa
SD/WINAP-3/1989/M1-17	Vanuatu
SD/WINAP-3/1989/M1-18	Cook Islands
SD/WINAP-3/1989/M1-19	Territory of American Samoa
SD/WINAP-3/1989/M1-20	Tuvalu
SD/WINAP-3/1989/M1-21	Federated States of Micronesia
SD/WINAP-3/1989/M1-22	Papua New Guinea
SD/WINAP-3/1989/M1-23	Papua New Guinea
SD/WINAP-3/1989/M1-24	Samoa (Module 2: Management of women's information centres)
SD/WINAP-3/1989/M2-1	Report on the development of a Women's Information Network for Asia and the Pacific (WINAP) (Yumiko Tanaka)
SD/WINAP-3/1989/M2-2	Summary of activities on women in development programme of ESCAP (Yumiko Tanaka)
SD/WINAP-3/1989/M2-3	Introduction of SPC network (Jillette Leon-Guerrero)
SD/WINAP-3/1989/M2-4	Information network systems of the National Women's Education Centre of Japan (Hiroko Hashimoto)
SD/WINAP-3/1989/M2-5	Networking among women: an international perspective (Anne S. Walker)

Number	*Title*
SD/WINAP-3/1989/M2-6	Women's non-governmental organizations in Japan (Junko Kuninobu)
SD/WINAP-3/1989/M2-7	NGO network in Australia (Janet Hunt)
	(Module 3: Collection, analysis and organization of women's information
SD/WINAP-3/1989/M3-1	Socio-economic indicators and statistics (Laurence H. Lewis)
SD/WINAP-3/1989/M3-2	Socio-economic indicators and statistics on Pacific women (Heather Booth)
SD/WINAP-3/1989/M3-3	Research skills and methods relevant for Pacific women (Cema Bolabola)
	(Module 4: Production of media materials on women's issues)
SD/WINAP-3/1989/M4-1	Media/communication ideas (Elizabeth Cox)
	(Module 5: New information technology and its application to women's information systems)
SD/WINAP-3/1989/M5-1	Information technology (Susan Phelps)
SD/WINAP-3/1989/M5-2	Management of national regional and international statistical data bases (Carmen McFarlane and Graham Templeman)

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