

The Kiribati Local Government Association
(AIA RABWATA KAUNTIRA I KIRIBATI)

BTC's 40th Anniversary and Open Day



Hon. Teima Onorio, (L) and the New Zealand High Commissioner, Mike Walsh unveiling the BTC's Anniversary commemorative plaque

The Betio Town Council held its 40th Anniversary celebration and Open Day on Tuesday, 30 May 2012, the date of its establish-

ment in 1972 by Governor Sir. John Smith.

Other important parts of the programme included the opening of the

NZiad-funded Women and Youth Empowerment Centre, a business show case by major Betio business houses and the BTC Anthem competition.

The Guest of Honour, Hon. Teima Onorio, Vice President and Minister for Internal & Social Affairs, was full of praise for BTC's achievements and recognition by CLGF as a **Best Practices Council**. In her address, she reported that the CLGF's Board Meeting, which she attended in Belize, approved BTC's application to be a member of the CLGF.

In his address, the Mayor, Romano Reo, who is also the Chairperson of KiLGA, acknowledged the former leaders for their "efforts and foresight that have built a solid foundation for BTC."

The mayor said that he has changed the Council's approach from one where BTC works on its own, separated from its citizens to a "more collaborative one where the business of serving the community is a role for all rather than the ... Council's alone".

Cont. Page 4

The KiLGA's Executive Board Meeting

The KiLGA's Executive Board held its second meeting from 6-7 June at the MISA in Bairiki.

The meeting, chaired by Romano Reo, was attended by Tokia Greig (TUC), Tebau Iakoba (Marakei) and Teurairai Tion (Onotoa).

Items on the agenda included the Fund Raising Strategy, the Twinning Policy, and reports on KiLGA's activities and projects, as well as the Financial Report.

The Board also had a meeting with the Vice President and Minister of Internal Affairs, Hon. Teima Onorio, on Friday, 7 June, when she was briefed and updated on the Board's decisions and

KiLGA's planned activities for 2012.

As part of its advocacy programme, the Board also met the staff of NZaid and the Australian High Commission to discuss project development funds for the Councils and establish development partnership. The Board also met Ms. Pelenise Alofa, CEO of KiriCAN, to

discuss how Councils can be resourced to actively and directly deal with Climate Change Adaptation.

The Board also met Teata Terubea, Director of the Rural Planning Division of MISA, to discuss Councils' Priority projects and find out ways to speed up their funding and implementation.

In this Issue -

- ◆ Solid Waste Mgt. at TUC assisted by NZaid, p. 2
- ◆ Marakei Council partners with Unimwane and Coral Ace on Sports, p. 2
- ◆ Development at Eutan Tarawa Council, p. 2
- ◆ Taiwan Fund has benefited Councils, p. 3



(L-R) Members of the Executive Board with the Australian High Comm. Staff: NZaid staff, Pelenise Alofa (CEO of KiriCAN) and Teata Terubea (Director Rural Planning Division) of MISA.

News from the Councils

TUC—Handover of Two Solid Waste Trucks by the NZ government



On Friday 17 April, an official from the NZ High Commission (pictured second from L.) presented two trucks to Mr. Tokia Greig, Mayor of TUC at a special handover ceremony held at TUC HQs in Teaoaraereke, witnessed by all the TUC Councilors and staff.

In his speech, the

Mayor thanked New Zealand for the trucks and for funding the clinics at Teaoaraereke and Eita and the extension to the market at Bikenibeu.

“The trucks will contribute to better solid waste management by TUC,” said the Mayor.

The trucks were ordered from the Land and

Marine Transport Agent (LMTA), which will provide maintenance backup service for one year.

In his remarks, the NZ official praised the Council and government for efforts in the collection of solid waste on Tarawa.

Marakei—Sports Tournament Involves Unimwane and Private Sector



Tebau Iakoba, Mayor

When Councils work together with the Traditional

Leaders and the Private Sector, the people always benefit.

This is the message conveyed by the Mayor from Marakei, Mr. Tebau Iakoba, in describing the joint-efforts by his Council, the *Unimwane* Association and Coral Ace Ent. in organizing the Island Sports Tournament in April that ended with a prize giving function in May.

The tournament in soccer and volleyball involved both females and males teams. The prize, do-

nated by Coral Ace, was a trophy and \$100 cash prize for the winner.

At the end of the tournament, the first prize for men’s soccer went to Norauea village while that for the women’s went to Raweai. For volleyball, the men’s team from Rawannawi village won the first prize and the team from Tekuanga took the women’s.

The Youth was also involved when they provided refreshments during the prize giving function, held at the Council HQs in Rawannawi village. The Mayor reported that the best teams are likely to represent Marakei Island during the national sports tournament later in the year or early in 2013.

ETC: Training Completed



Bwerea Teatu, Mayor

A team from MISA spent four weeks, from May 13 at Eutan Tarawa Council, North Tarawa, carrying out an inspection of the Council’s accounts and conducting a training course on Locally Elected Leadership (LEL), Financial Manage-

ment, Strategic Planning, Gender and Voter’s Education.

Participants included Councilors, *Unimwane*, Women’s Associations, Youths and Council staff.

The training was closed on Friday, 8 June by the Mayor, Mr. Bwerea Teatu.

The trainers comprised Mr. Bakarere Kaatarake (SLGO), Mere Tee- maia and Kanta Tokaire. Funding amounting \$7,000 was provided by CLGF Pacific Project based in Fiji.

40K Savings from Completed Project

The ETC has completed the construction of its new office with a saving of \$40,000, a first of its kind, as similar projects in other Councils have resulted in overspending or incomplete projects.

Although ETC has the advantage of its close proximity to supplies of materials, good supervision and skilled workmanship are factors that also contribute to this success. The savings

will be used to equip and furnish the office, not included in the original project.

On a related matter, ETC is embarking on an “Integrated Income Generating Project” comprising hardware supplies, a computer network system and the setting up of a Reserve Fund for the Council, that will be invested offshore with the returns used to supplement the Council’s income.



ETC’s newly-completed office at Abaokoro

Council Elections 2012

KiLGA wishes to thank all Mayors and Councillors in Kiribati for their support and wish them well in the upcoming Council Elections on 21 August , 2012

The Vice President welcomes dialogue with KiLGA



cal Government, Ms. Amina Uriam (see photo)

The Vice President, who has just returned from a CLGF Board's meeting in Belize, informed the KiLGA Executive Board that during the Belize meeting, she reported of KiLGA's establishment and was offered advice that the CLGF and one of its donors NZ will continue to support LG and LGAs in Kiribati.

On Friday, 8 June, the Vice President and Minister for Internal & Social Affairs,

Hon. Teima Onorio, met the KiLGA's Executive Board at her office in Bai-

riki, in the presence of her Secretary, Ms. Wiriki Tooma and Director of Lo-

Taiwan Aid has contributed to Councils' development

The Director of Rural Planning division of MISA, Mr. Teata Terubea, reported that Taiwan, has paid over \$20m to the Councils Priority projects, on the outer islands, from 2004 to 2012.

About 66% (\$10.5m) of this have been used on what he called "non-income generating projects," such as the construction of prison cells. The remaining 44% is spent on 'income-generating' projects, such as commercial vessels.

Councils have benefitted from the government's policy of setting aside \$2m from the Taiwan grant annually for their Priority Projects. Previous to 2004, Council had to wait their turns with others (government, NGOs, etc.) for funds available.

In addition, Taiwan has allocated over \$1m for the construction of *mwaneaba* in Temaiku to house Council and island delegations to important events on Tarawa, such as the National Sports Tournaments.

According to figures released from the Rural Planning Division, the most popular project by Councils is Commercial

Vessels (17 Councils), followed by Council Offices (12), Mechanical Workshops and/or Tools (10) and Guesthouses (8). This is illustrated in the pie-chart below.

Despite this sound policy by government and the generous support by Taiwan, there are issues that need to be dealt with to improve the management and success rate of the projects. These include:-

Relevance of projects—Councils should be guided in their selection of priority projects so that they are relevant, sustainable and, where possible, income generating;

Fair distribution of fund—A formula should be created and applied for the funding allocation so that Councils receive a fair share of

Taiwan aid based on their population and other relevant criteria;

Failed projects—Some projects have failed because they were not completed or the item purchased got damaged, lost or is of inferior quality. This is a waste of funds and some preventive and mitigation measures

needed to hold those responsible accountable.

Poor project implementation—Many projects have failed due to poor implementation policies and practices. It has been reported that projects implemented by Councils have higher success rates.

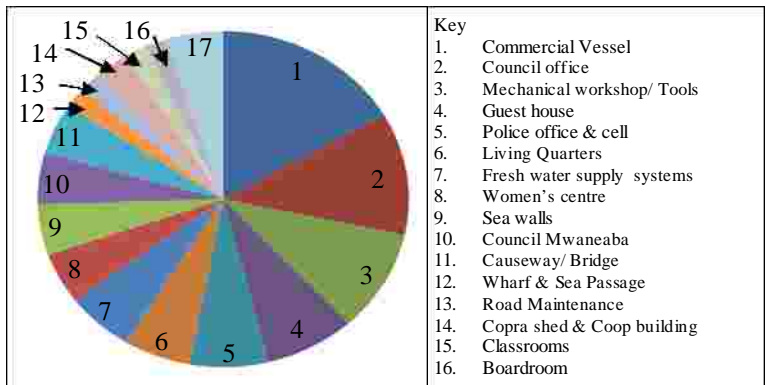
Procurement of project items—Many projects have failed due to poor procurement practices. KiLGA is planning to establish a Bulk Purchase Scheme, with assistance from other LGAs, such as the Queensland LGA, to assist Council procure quality project materials at an affordable price, thus making savings that can be used for other needs

and requirements that relate to the project in question.

Multi-Council projects—Councils should also consider projects which involve and benefit more than one Council.

Conclusion

The funds from Taiwan are appreciated since they provide the Councils with funds to construct capital goods and allow for commercial and other projects to take off. However, the results may not be as beneficial as intended, given the lack of mechanisms to guide and regulate poor practices, misappropriation or other problems that have been encountered.



are Councils Priority Project by type



The KiLGA Newsletter is published quarterly by the Kiribati Local Government Association.

- It is edited and printed at the KiLGA's Office, BTC, Betio, KIRIBATI.
- The newsletter is funded by the KiLGA and its partners, the ARIAL Programme, implemented in Kiribati by VNG International of the Netherlands.
- For queries contact us on the following address:-

Kiribati Local Government Association
Betio Town Council,
P.O. Box 477
Betio, Tarawa
KIRIBATI

Phone: (686) 50531;
Fax: (686) 25250
E-mail: kilgaassistant@gmail.com

What is KiLGA?

The Kiribati Local Government Association, (KiLGA), is an Association made up of Councils in Kiribati with the aim of developing their capacity to allow them to provide improved services to their communities.

Northern District

Makin, Butaritari, Marakei, Abaiang, Eutan Tarawa, Maiana, and Kiritimati Urban Council.

Central District

Kuria, Aranuka, Abemama, Nonouti, Tabiteuea Meang, Tabiteuea Maiaki, Tarawa Urban and Tabuaeran.

Southern District

Beru, Nikunau, Onotoa, Tamana, Arorae, BTC, Teeraina and Banaba.

Wise sayings From kiribati: ACCEPTING PEACE is a blessing

Meaning—Giving in to peacemakers will result in one who is angry or fighting get blessed; a refusal may result in disaster and even death.

The Vice President welcomes dialogue with KiLGA (From Page. 3)

The Board updated the Vice President on their latest decisions and activities for 2012, which include:-

- ◆ Regular meetings with the VP on LG issues every six months;
- ◆ Allowing Councils and the HSCIF Fund to join KiLGA's Bulk Purchase scheme;
- ◆ Establishing a Trust Fund for Councils;
- ◆ TAs to undertake a study on how Councils can be more financially viable and sustainable and an-

other on Council workers capacity needs assessment;

- ◆ KiLGA's support to MISA on the Induction Programme for new councilors, after the Council meeting in August.

The Vice President welcomed the KiLGA's plans and initiatives but requested that prior to meetings with KiLGA, items for discussion should be circulated to her office for their preparation. She said that involving Councils with KiLGA's Bulk Purchase scheme is not an issue but that

KiLGA compete for bids for the procurement of project supplies like other suppliers.

On the issue of the Councils Trust Fund, a paper is required to explain the concept and its pros and cons before she can take it up to government for discussion and consideration.

The Vice President then informed the Board of plans for a comprehensive review of the LG system in Kiribati, in the near future, that will involve KiLGA.

BTC's 40th Anniversary (From P. 1)

The Mayor paid tribute to the assistance and support offered over the years by donor partners and the Business community and encouraged them to help BTC deal with urbanization and youth unemployment, among others.

One of the highlights of the event was the BTC Anthem competition

between two all-male choirs. A panel of judges that included well-known composers and singers, selected the entry by Ngaon Nareau Choir, entitled "We the People of Betio" as the winner.

The Anniversary and Open Day is a first of its kind and was a great success.

ARIAL Evaluators Visit KiLGA



Mr. Remi Stoquart (France) and Ms. Aneta Antonia Sinachopoulou – Svarna (Greece), ARIAL Evaluators, (pictured with Eliza Tokataake) visited KiLGA from 23 – 26

April, 2012 to assess the KiLGA project. They met Eliza Tokataake, Clerk to BTC, KiLGA's staff and Romano Reo, chairman of KiLGA. They praised KiLGA for the work it producing a good Strategic Plan and for other outputs such as the KiLGA newsletter.