ACTIVITIES

This section provides selected highlighted activities and meetings:

August 2005

Telecommunications and Information Resource Management (TIRM)
Graduate Certificate Program, University of Hawaii at Manoa

The Telecommunications and Information Resource Management (TIRM) Graduate Certificate Program is a ten-month program consists of five-graduate courses. This Program provides professionals with updated knowledge, skills and abilities for managing telecommunication networks, services, and other information resources. It is offered in an accelerated format for working professional and students to gain skills and develop understanding in:

- Information and Communication Technologies (ICT)
- Information Resource Policy, Planning and Management; and
- ICT Development and Services

The curriculum incorporates a comprehensive exploration of the breadth and depth of ICT and information resource policy, planning, technology systems, regulation, and management. The course activities and projects build on participants' professional background, experiences and ICT related interests. Although the program is not designed to develop highly specialized technical skills, technical professionals benefit from the TIRM Program by expanding their understanding of broader policy, program, and management issues in the field.

Prospective Candidates in the Pacific Islands Region
The TIRM courses are delivered in asynchronous and synchronous modes using interactive video teleconferencing, video streaming, and the Internet.

The hybrid courses enable flexibility for participants to attend class on-campus or from remote locations, including various sites in the Pacific Islands region. Students participating from remote locations require a H.323 video teleconferencing system. All participants require an Internet connection for access to on-line course materials.

The TIRM Program is particularly suitable for professionals or students with experience and/or current responsibilities in communication and information technologies and services and have shown leadership or leadership potential in the management of communication and information resources.

For more Information:
Please visit the TIRM Web site at www.tirm.tipg.net or call (808) 956-2895 for updated information on admission to the Program, course schedule, tuition and fees, and other useful information.

The Telecommunication and Information Resource Management (TIRM) Graduate Certificate Program is offered by the University of Hawai'i at Manoa (UHM) Graduate Division, the College of Social Sciences (CSS), UHM Outreach College, the School of Communications, and the Telecommunications and Information Policy Group (TIPG) of the Social Science Research Institute (SSRI).

March 2005

March 10, 2005< 2005 Technology and Internet Expo
Venue: Ala Moana Hotel
Conference speakers: Christina Higa / Kaina Lingaton / Lance Shinsato
Topic: Medical Technology Track

Christina Higa, Kaina Lingaton and Lance Shinsato presented at the 2005 Technology and Internet Expo. The session was divided into three parts: telecommunication networks, open source systems and applications. The presentation highlighted the consortia of partnerships and networks administered by TIPG including the State Telehealth Access Network (STAN), PEACESAT and the Pacific Partners Networks. The presentation provided an environmental scan of other eHealth developments in the Pacific Islands. The session also focused on open source systems and applications such as Linux, Moodle, and OpenVista. In addition, a brief discussion on the benefits and difficulties of implementing open source systems, specific example of successful applications of open source systems and options for overcoming the challengers of maintenance and support were presented. The conference included two tracks that focused on Medical Technology and Business respectively.

Christina comment:
"The Expo was very well organized by Lincoln Jacobe's Pacific News Media. Jana Lindsey, Telemedicine Coordinator for Shriner's Hospital and Children did a fantastic job in organizing the telehealth track. The conference provided a good opportunity for networking. Several people approached us after the conference with interest in joining the STAN network."

Kaina comment:
I thought that the conference went well. There were great speakers that provided information about telemedicine in Hawaii and the Pacific Islands.
Unfortunately the turnout of guests wasn't as big as I expected, but the people that were there seemed very interested in the topics and approached the speakers after the presentations for additional information.

It was good to hear some of the presentations on some of the uses of the PEACESAT and STAN networks for telemedicine and CME applications. Many of the users had good things to say about the networks and want to expand their use to reach more people.

March 2004

March 27, 2004< Vice President Kakazu Visits PEACESAT

Vice President Hiroshi Kakazu and Professor Tetsuo Heshiki of the University of the Ryukyus visited the University of Hawaii School of Travel Industry and Management as they are planning to open a Department of Tourism. Additionally, they visited the John A. Burns School of Medicine and PEACESAT.

Dr. Hiroshi Kakazu is the newly named Vice President for Research and International Exchange of the University of the Ryukyus in Okinawa, Japan. Dr. Kakazu has supported island cultures and development for many years and is a member of the Sasakawa Pacific Island Nations Fund (SPINF) Pacific Island Digital Opportunities (PIDO) research committee.

Mr. Bob Nakasone, Okinawa Program Director, East-West Center, also joined the meeting at PEACESAT. Mr. Nakasone is on a one-year research fellowship at the University of the Ryukyus.

PEACEAT Visits Japan

Dr. Norman H. Okamura and Ms. Christina Higa, PEACESAT Co-Principal Investigators attended "The Expert Meeting on Project Designing for Pacific Islands –on Environment, health and Human Resource Development"in Naha, Okinawa on March 3-5, 2004. The meeting, co-hosted by the Research Institute of Subtropics and the United Nations University, was attended by 30 participants representing universities(i), regional organizations(ii), and international cooperation (iii) agencies to develop programs between the Pacific Islands, Okinawa and Hawaii. These program themes align with global and regional directions of the Pacific World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) Type II initiatives, the Pacific Regional Position towards the Barbados Plan of Action (BPOA+10) and the Okinawa Initiative of the 3rd Pacific Islands Leaders Summit (PALM 3).

The PEACESAT networks are a key component in interconnecting the Pacific Islands, Hawaii and Japan for developing and establishing collaborative projects in the region.

Norman and Christina also visited the Okinawa Naval Hospital, Chubu Hospital and the Okinawa Prefecture Government to discuss the potential for establishing telehealth programs between Okinawa, the Pacific Islands and Hawaii.

Chubu Hospital connects to the STAN network by ISDN to participate in the UH grand rounds program every Tuesday.

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i. University of the South Pacific, University of the Ryukyus, Okinawa University, Hokkaido University, Keio University, United Nations University, University of Hawaii

ii. South Pacific Regional Environment Program (SPREP), International Society for Mangrove Ecosystems (ISME), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), WWF Solomon Islands

iii. Japan Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA), Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), United Nations Development Program (UNDP)

February 2004

February 27, 2004< Ms. Christina Higa - 2003 Research Corporation of the University of Hawaii (RCUH) Employee of the Year

On February 27, 2004 PEACESAT Director and Co-Principal Investigator **Ms. Christina Higa** won the 2003 RCUH Employee of the Year award. She was selected by a five-member team and out of fourteen finalists nominated for the RCUH Outstanding Employee. This is quite an honor and accomplishment considering RCUH has nearly 1,000 full-time employees.

Christina was selected in recognition of her demonstrable, significant, and outstanding performance, contribution, and achievement to the PEACESAT Program. A luncheon to honor all those nominated was held at the Manoa Grand Ballroom at the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii with RCUH Director of Human Resources, Nelson Sakamoto, as the Master of Ceremony.

Comments from **Christina**: "…it was difficult to stand in front of a crowd and receive and individual award today because I know that each and everyone at PEACESAT contributes to the success of the program. I'm so very happy to work with such good people and a program that gives me personal satisfaction. Not everyone can say that about their job. I thank Norman as our PI for the nomination and taking the time to write-up a stellar application, for the program direction and our professional development. Thank you all for your support. I'm extremely touched."

January 2004

January 26-29, 2004< The United States Telecommunication Training Institute (USTTI) Seminar
The United States Telecommunication Training Institute (USTTI) Seminar was held in Hawaii from January 26th to 29th, 2004. On the January 28, **Dr. Steffan Groth** (Director, Department of Essential Health Technologies, WHO, Geneva) and **Ms. Irma Velazquez** (Information Technology Officer, WHO) presented on the WHO programme on E-Health at the Shriners Hospital for Children. **Dr. Okamura** and **Ms. Christina Higa** also attended and presented on the PEACESAT network. Small informal meetings between WHO and individual participants from various organizations were held after presentations to review the status of telehealth in the Pacific Islands and to identify needs and opportunities for provision of technical assistance by WHO to those regions in the field of telehealth.

World Health Organization - Strategy 2004-2007 (PDF)
World Health Organization - Country Focus (PDF)
World Health Organization - Information Technology (PDF)

January 26, 2004< Communications Research Laboratory IP Remote Control Car
At the East West Center Techs in Paradise (TIP) 2004 International Conference, an 11 Mbps/2.4 GHz Wireless LAN (IEEE 802.11b) between Honolulu and Tokyo was demonstrated by the Communications Research Laboratory (CRL) via the Asia-Pacific Advanced Network (APAN) network. The IP controlled model car introduced by the CRL can be controlled from long distances through the Internet. PEACESAT Honolulu staff were able to control the model car located in Tokyo, Japan and they participated in a very exciting car race from Hawaii via the Internet.

The Asia-Pacific Advanced Network (APAN) is a non-profit international consortium established on 3 June 1997. APAN is intended to be a high-performance network for research and development on advanced applications and services. APAN provides advanced networking environment for research community, and promotes international collaboration.

Note: On April 1, 2004, the Communications Research Laboratory (CRL) and the Telecommunications Advancement Organization of Japan (TAO) will be recognized as the National Institute of Information and Communications Technology (NICT).

November 2003

November 18, 2003< Memorial For Dr. Donald Topping
We are very sorry to bring you the sad news that Dr. Donald Topping passed away on Sunday June 29, 2003. Dr. Topping was the Principal Investigator of PEACESAT at the University of Hawaii for many years and was a dear friend to us all.

On November 18, 2003, a video teleconference was held between Hawaii and Guam for a short ceremony. During that time Dr. Benit Camacho-Dungca presented a Resolution honoring Dr. Topping for his work with the Pacific Islands from Guam. Dr. Topping's family and friends attended this ceremony at the PEACESAT office in Honolulu.

July 2003

July 1, 2003 < Video Teleconference at PEACESAT Studio between University of Hawaii and University of Houston.
Professor Jim Dator, Political Science and Director of the Hawaii Research Center for Futures Studies at the University of Hawaii, had an interesting discussion on the paper titled, "Surfing the Tsunamis of Change"with students and faculty from the graduate Program on the Future at the University of Houston, Clear Lake, Texas.

The students from the University of Houston had been assigned to read the paper written by Dr. Dator beforehand. It dealt with possible future developments in demographics, the environment, technology, economics, governance and culture. The professor for the University of Houston class was Dr. Wendy Schultz. The fifteen students were from varied cultures and academic backgrounds--geographically from Bulgaria, Germany, Peru, Texas, Turkey, and Vietnam, and academically from architecture, business administration, education, engineering, philosophy, and social work.

The level of excited interactive discussion was very high throughout, and everyone seemed sad but exhilarated when the hour (8:30 am to 9:30 AM Honolulu time; 1:30 PM to 2:30 PM Houston time) video conference session came to an end.

June 2003

June 25, 2003 < Dr. William Riffee visits PEACESAT.
Dr. Riffee is Dean of the College of Pharmacy and Associate Provost at the University of Florida. He is an internationally recognized expert on the use of technology in pharmacy education. His visit was to explore the available technology and needs to support pharmacy education the Pacific Basin.

June 09-17, 2003 < Norman Okamura travels to American Samoa to work with the ASG DELTA Consortium.

June 17, 2003 < PEACESAT hosts an exchange between students in Hawaii and American Samoa.
Ms. South Pacific Lupe Aumavae and Ms. Tiresa Lutu in American Samoa. The students gave presentations about Hawaii and shared a hula with the participants in American Samoa.

June 02-16, 2003 < Kaina Lingaton and Ian Emmsely completed P2K Project installation in American Samoa.

June 04, 2003 < Raymond Wang Presents Donation to American Samoa Governor.
General Counsel Raymond Wang of Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Honolulu presents a donation by interactive video teleconference to the American Samoa Governor Tulafono for relief efforts of a major devastating flood that caused severe property damage and resulted in fatalities and injuries.

May 2003

May 19-23, 2003 < PEACESAT Operations Maintenance Improvement Program (OMIP) 3rd regional workshop is held in the Koror, Palau.
The PREL and the Ministry of Education co-cost the event attended by more than 30 participants from all U.S. affiliated Pacific Island jurisdictions. Trainees took their final exam on Carp Island where closing ceremonies and PEACESAT OMIP certificates were distributed. Mr. Silves Mikel, PREL Service Center Manager, was instrumental in coordinating the logistics in Palau.

May 7, 2003< Bruce Best Receives the 2003 Excellence in Government Citizen of the Year Award

Bruce Best received the 2003 Excellence in Government Citizen of the Year Award on May 7, 2003 at the annual Honolulu-Pacific Federal Executive Board Luncheon in Honolulu. The award was nominated by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) National Weather Service (NWS). Mr. Best was honored for his outstanding achievements as the manager for the western Pacific portion of the Pan Pacific Education and Communications Experiment by Satellite (PEACESAT) system. Click for PDF article of event.

April 2003

April 25, 2003 < Dr. Kimio Uno visit PEACESAT and meets with President Dobelle.

Dr. Kimio Uno of the United Nations University is the Director of the LEAD Japan Program. LEAD Japan willl organize a joint session with LEAD Programs in China, Indonesia, India, and Pakistan during September 14-21, 2003 at the Asian Institute of Technology in Bangkok.