

# PRESS RELEASE



United Nations Development Programme  
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## **Assisting Communities Together – Award ceremony**

The Assisting Communities Together (ACT) initiative is a human rights project in the Pacific. The project strives to support initiatives for the promotion and protection of human rights through grass-roots activities carried out by community-based organizations and they will have an important local impact and will facilitate genuine lasting improvements in the daily lives of people.

A number of project applicants have been screened by the UN Office of the High Commissioner of Human Rights (OHCHR) and the UNDP Regional Governance in the Pacific Programme (GovPac) and below are the 5 successful applicants that have been approved and will receive ACT grants (4 from Samoa and 1 from the Cook Islands).

- Samoa Umbrella for Non Governmental Organizations (SUNGO) will strengthen their monitoring and advocacy role for human rights in Samoa.
- Afeafe o Vaetoeafaga will produce an educational resource that aims to provide Samoan students and other people with interest in history an insight into how the right to self-determination came to be realized with Samoa's independence in 1962.
- Nuanua o le Alofa will produce a "Disability Issues and Human Rights" calendar 2007-2008.
- Tiapapata Art Centre will create an illustrated book and an illustrated board game serving as an educational resource to teach the Samoan children about human rights.
- Punanga Tauturu will arrange a workshop in the Cook Islands to increase awareness and exposure on the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW).

UNDP Samoa has strongly promoted the participation of NGO's in Samoa and the Pacific in the ACT Programme for the past 4 years and would like to congratulate the applicants that have been awarded. To celebrate this, UNDP Samoa will host a luncheon ceremony on Friday, 18 August 2006 at 12.00 PM at the Millenia Hotel.

The ceremony will be informal and give the organizations an opportunity to share their experiences with invited guests and media representatives. It is hoped that this event will bring greater exposure to the projects and increase the awareness of their activities to the public.

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