



## **SAWG President and NUS lecturer Niusila Faamanatu-Eteuati was well received at the 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Pacific Circle Consortium Conference (PCC Conference) – 2011**

**Hosted by Faculty of Education, University of Auckland  
(Friday 12<sup>th</sup> to Sun 14<sup>th</sup> Aug 2011).**

The Pacific Circle Consortium (PCC) was established in 1977 as an initiative in international co-operation between educational research and development institutions in the Pacific Region initially drawn from Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) countries.

The PCC now draws members from Australia, New Zealand, Hawaii, Fiji, Samoa, China, Hong Kong SAR, Japan, South Korea, Malaysia, Taiwan, Thailand, Sri Lanka, several states of the United States, Vietnam, Canada, Latvia, and México. Conference attendees have also come from Europe, the United Kingdom, Russia, Nepal and Ecuador.

The theme of this year's conference is "Unpredictability of Education"

Originally the College of Education at University of Canterbury was supposed to host this year's conference but all had changed due to the earthquakes.

The PCC conference this year was sponsored by AKO Aotearoa – National Centre for Tertiary Teaching Excellence, Faculty of Education, University of Auckland and Research Unit in Pacific & International Education (RUPIE). It is a great opportunity for educators to deliberate on educational issues and challenges in education so they can improve curriculum development, training of teachers and educational research practice in the region.

Samoa hosted this conference back in 2008 at Faculty of Education in the National University of Samoa. This year four lecturers from Faculty of Education at NUS took part and presented papers at the conference.



**GROUP PHOTO OF PACIFIC CIRCLE CONSORTIUM CONFERENCE taken at KOHIA TEACHERS' CENTRE  
Auckland University Epsom Campus - Aug 12th to 14th 2011**

Niusila Faamanatu-Eteuati – discussed the Development of Inclusive Education (a'oa'oga sau'o) in Samoa and Teachers' Pedagogical ideas in handling children with special needs.

Leua Latai – The use of Art Therapy as a way of emotional healing in Samoan schools – A study conducted in tsunami affected schools in Samoa in the Aleipata area.

Faamoemoe Hakai-Soti – Teachers' perspectives on the new Food and Textile Curriculum in Samoa.

Faalogo Teleuli Mafoa – Teachers' perspectives on the new Business studies curriculum in Samoa.

All these presentation are based on research studies conducted in government, mission and private schools in Samoa and will be published in the Pacific Asian Education Journal.

A few Pasifika Staff from Faculty of Education, University of Auckland and AUT took part in the conference too including Assoc Prof Dr Eve Coxon, Prof Tagaloatele Peggy Fairbairn-Dunlop, Tanya Wendt Samu, Seiuli Luama Sauni and Vaovasamanaia Meripa Toso.

Every year during the conference, elections are held for new executive members and this year a lecturer at National University of Samoa and SAWG president Niusila Faamanatu-Eteuati has been elected into the new PCC executive board chaired by Steven Thorpe from University of Oregon, US.

This new executive committee will help organize next year's conference which will be at Ewha Women's University, Seoul, Korea.



**SAWG PRESIDENT/NUS LECTURER - NIUSILA FAAMANATU-ETEUATI AND TAGALOATELE PROFESSOR DR PEGGY FAIRBAIRN DUNLOP (FOUNDING MEMBER AND EX-PRESIDENT OF SAMOA ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN GRADUATES - SAWG)**