

## **Oceania Sport Education Program (OSEP)**

Sainimili Talatoka, OSEP Coordinator provides an outline of the progress of work since its partnership with UK Sport's ICES initiative.

A key fact in Pacific Islands sport is the absence of a coordinated approach to supporting training and on-going development of practitioners. In 2010, the Sport Education Framework in Oceania was designed by a group of international and regional experts. Still evolving, the framework has been utilized to support lead sport stakeholders develop and drive national sport education systems, over-arch OSEP and other training courses and assist the coordination of partnerships between organisations delivering sport programs, training volunteers and professionals and driving sport policy leadership at a national level.

One of the focus areas in 2011 was the profiling of sport participants in Cook Islands. In 2012, this work has extended to Palau, Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) and Marshall Islands, countries located in the north of the Oceania region.

At the end of 2011, the sport volunteers and professionals competency project team was activated. Their work is to identify the types of human resource and outline the skills and competencies requirements to provide the necessary support for sport participants. This work, when completed, aims to support the design and formalization of sport specific accreditation systems (in partnership with regional sport federations) at national levels.

With the growing unemployment figures across the Pacific particularly in the youth category and the increasing popularity of physical activity and sport, OSEP is using this opportunity to build on a platform that could see sport as an industry in the years ahead. Not only to be a vehicle of promoting healthy lifestyles (sport federations in conjunction with the Health departments and WHO initiatives) but to also create sport related employment opportunities for the youths in sport coaching, officiating and administration (in partnership with the Secretariat of Pacific Communities regional youth strategy).

This process has begun with the mainstreaming of sport education into the Pacific's regional and national structures. OSEP has made connections to the Secretariat of the Pacific Board for Educational Assessment (SPBEA) to recognise the Competency Framework under the *Pacific Register of Qualifications and Standards*. *This will entail*

*OSEP* through its NOC's, to begin the process of gaining recognition in the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat member countries *national qualifications frameworks*. In advocating for this recognition, sport-training programs delivered for coaches, administrators, technical officials, team managers and sport professionals will be standardised (generic and sport specific) and recognised across the Pacific.

ONOC's (OSEP) partnership with UK Sport (ICES) has provided a beneficial platform of sharing good practice tools and access to a group of experts from around the globe in developing countries.

*OSEP is a program of the Oceania National Olympic Committees (ONOC). It is one of the five continental organisations under the International Olympic Committees (IOC) catering for the sporting needs of its 17 members. To learn more about OSEP, go to [www.oceaniasport.com/osep](http://www.oceaniasport.com/osep)*