

Charter of the
**Pacific Youth Environmental Network
(PYEN)**



Ratified by PYEN Organising Committee, February 2006

Supporting Organisations



THE UNIVERSITY OF
NEW SOUTH WALES



Kensington Group

Charter of the Pacific Youth Environmental Network (PYEN)

Preamble

Our Mission:

"We are united in solidarity as youth of the Pacific to strengthen our voice and influence at all levels. Through raising awareness, and through inspiring, empowering and enabling youth, we are igniting participation in our communities to catalyse action for a sustainable future"

- Integrate environmental, social and economic perspectives and foster the engagement of government, civil society and business in achieving sustainable development goals;
- Work collaboratively with agencies with shared mandates and vision;
- Create a supportive and harmonious working environment, which maximizes achievement of individual and team goals
- Provide a youth perspective and input through the TUNZA youth strategy.

Chapter 1

Purposes and Principles

Article 1

The Pacific Youth Environmental Network (PYEN) Organisation is based on the principle of securing and governing our relationship with natural environment of all its Members.

1. All Members, in order to ensure to all of them the rights and benefits resulting from membership, shall fulfil in good faith the obligations assumed by them in accordance with the present Charter.
2. Members should aspire to management practices that are designed to ensure that the exploration of resources is conducted in a manner that protects the resource base for future generations.
3. Broadly the outcomes of PYEN shall be to drive leadership that conserves the stock of natural assets; to avoid damaging the regenerative capacity of eco-systems; to achieve greater social and economic equality; and to avoid imposing risks and costs on future generations.
4. All Members shall give the Pacific Youth Environmental Network every assistance in any action it takes in accordance with the present Charter.

Composition

General Assembly

The General Assembly shall consist of all the Members of the Pacific Youth Environmental Network and the Secretariat.

Secretariat

The administrative unit of PYEN responsible for maintaining records and other secretarial duties that allow for the smooth operation of PYEN. The Secretariat shall comprise a Secretary-General and such staff as the Organization may require. The Secretary-General shall be appointed by the United Nations Environmental Programme Regional Office for Asia Pacific (ROAP). He or She shall be the chief administrative officer of the Organization.

Members

Individuals and organisations accepted into PYEN with a shared vision for the purposes and principles as outlined in the Charter.

Organising Committee

Sponsoring Organisations that oversee the Secretariat, the philosophy and principles of the Charter are upheld in good faith.

Functions and Powers

Article 2

The General Assembly may discuss any questions or any matters within the scope of the present Charter and may make recommendations to the Members of the United Nations Regional Office for Asia Pacific (ROAP) on any such questions or matters.

Article 3

The General Assembly may discuss any questions relating to the maintenance of the network brought before it by any Member of the PYEN. Any such question on which action is necessary shall be referred to the United Nations Regional Office for Asia Pacific by the secretariat on behalf of the members either before or after discussion.

The General Assembly may call the attention of the ROAP via the Secretariat to situations which are likely to endanger the maintenance or longevity of the network.

Article 4

All Members shall settle their disputes by peaceful means. Independent third party resolution shall be sought in the event that matters are not resolved in a reasonable timely fashion

In respect to any dispute or situation the functions assigned to it in the present Charter, the General Assembly shall not make any recommendation with regard to that dispute or situation unless the Secretariat makes a such request in writing.

The Secretary-General, shall notify the General Assembly at each session of any matters relative to the maintenance of the network which are being dealt with by the ROAP.

Reporting

Article 5

The General Assembly may conduct studies and make recommendations for the purpose of:

- a. promoting international co-operation in the environment field and encouraging the progressive development of environmental solutions for the Pacific region.
- b. promoting international co-operation in the environmental field.
- c. Encouraging best practice in the environment field by government, industry and local communities in the pacific region.

Article 6

PYEN General Assembly shall provide State of the Environment (SOE) reports to be used within the structure of the United Nations, to provide reporting on sustainability with the Millennium Development Goals and Tunza protocols on behalf of the UN

The ROAP shall receive and consider annual and special reports from the general assembly; these reports shall include an account of the measures that the PYEN members have decided upon or taken to maintain the network and promote environmental sustainability in the region.

The General Assembly shall receive and consider reports from the other organisations in the region.

Procedure

Article 7

The General Assembly shall attempt to meet in regular annual conference sessions and in such special sessions as occasion may require. Special sessions can be convoked by the Secretariat at the request of the ROAP.

Chapter 2

Membership

Article 8

1. Membership of PYEN is open to all youth aged 15-24 who reside within the member nations of PYEN who accept the obligations contained in the present charter and, in the judgement of the Secretariat, are able and willing to carry out these obligations.

2. Membership of PYEN is open to all organisations whose headquarters or subsidiaries are based within the Pacific region. Organisations must accept the obligations contained in the present charter and, in the judgement of the Secretariat, are able and willing to carry out these obligations.

3. The admission of any individual or organisation to membership in the Pacific Youth Environmental Network will be effected by a decision of the United Nations Environmental Programme Regional Office for Asia Pacific (ROAP) upon the recommendation of the secretariat.

Article 9

1. A member of the PYEN may be suspended from the exercise of the rights and privileges of membership by the United Nations Environmental Programme Regional Office for Asia Pacific (ROAP) upon the recommendation of the secretariat.

Article 10

1. A member of the PYEN that has persistently violated the principles contained in the present charter may be expelled from the organisation by United Nations Environmental Programme Regional Office for Asia Pacific (ROAP) upon the recommendation of the secretariat.

Article 11

1. The secretary-general shall attend or be represented in all meetings of the general assembly. The secretariat shall also make an annual report to ROAP on the work of the organisation.

Article 12

1. The secretariat may bring to the attention of the ROAP any matter in its opinion that may threaten the maintenance and operation of the network.

Article 13

1. The performance of their duties the Secretary-General and the staff shall not seek or receive instructions from any government or from any other authority external to the Organization. They shall refrain from any action which might reflect on their position as international officials responsible only to the Organization.

2. Each Member of the PYEN undertakes to respect the exclusively rights and the responsibilities of the Secretary-General and the staff and not to seek to influence them in the discharge of their responsibilities.

Article 14

The present Charter shall remain deposited in the archives of the UNEP. Duly certified copies thereof shall be transmitted by that Organisation to the Organisations of the other signatories.

IN FAITH WHEREOF the representatives of the Organisations of Pacific Youth Environment Network have signed and ratified the present Charter.

Pacific Youth Environmental Network