

Media Release

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SEEDING FUTURE SUCCESS

A NEW start-up fund will allow more Pacific college students to take part in the Lion Foundation's Young Enterprise Scheme (YES) this year, Minister of Pacific Island Affairs the Hon Georgina te Heuheu says.

"That, in turn, will equip more young Pacific people with business and entrepreneurial skills they can use to build better futures, " Mrs te Heuheu says.

"Last year Pacific students at St Thomas of Canterbury showed us all what can be done with imagination and a good business plan, when they won the YES overall Company of the Year Award."

The St Thomas boys, trading under the name Oceanic Fusion, earlier in 2010 won the Excellence in Pacific Business Award, which is funded by the Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs.

"This year we are adding to that funding with a small seed fund (\$3000) to help Pacific college students take advantage of the opportunity that the Young Enterprise Scheme provides," Mrs te Heuheu said.

"I understand that in the past a lack of start-up capital has inhibited some of our Pacific students. This new fund aims to overcome that financial barrier, opening the way for more of them to take part in a scheme which fosters business skills including financial literacy.

"Young Pacific people are a growing part of New Zealand's population today. Hence it's imperative they are able to take their place as part of our business sector, as managers and skilled workers tomorrow. "

"I am delighted to help set them on that path today."

ENDS

For application forms please see

Mrs te Heuheu will launch the fund at an E-day held in West Auckland this week (subs: Weds 9 March at 9.30am).