
The Most Exotic Country You Never Heard of: Vanuatu

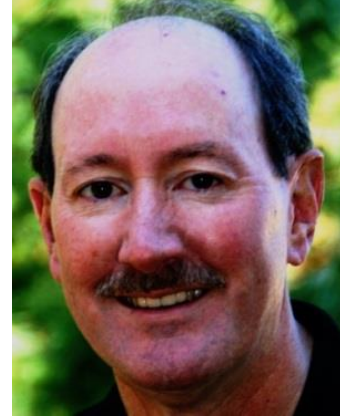
Lew Toulmin, Ph.D., F.R.G.S.
ESILL; Fairhope, Alabama
November 2018

www.themosttraveled.com

Class 1



Llewellyn “Lew” Toulmin, Ph.D.



Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society, Fellow of The Explorers Club



Worked in Vanuatu Prime Minister's Office (PMO) for three years; advised "Legendary Locations" TV show on Vanuatu; official photographer for the PMO & Parliament



Contributed to *The Vanuatu Post* and *Island Life*, and travel ed for paper in Maryland, articles on Vanuatu



Led anthropological and archaeological expeditions, and searches for missing aircraft, persons, plantations and towns



Ph.D. in public administration & economics



Traveled to 145 of the 196 countries on Earth

Topics Today:



Vanuatu - A Quick Tour



History



Daily Life in Vanuatu



Female Chiefs



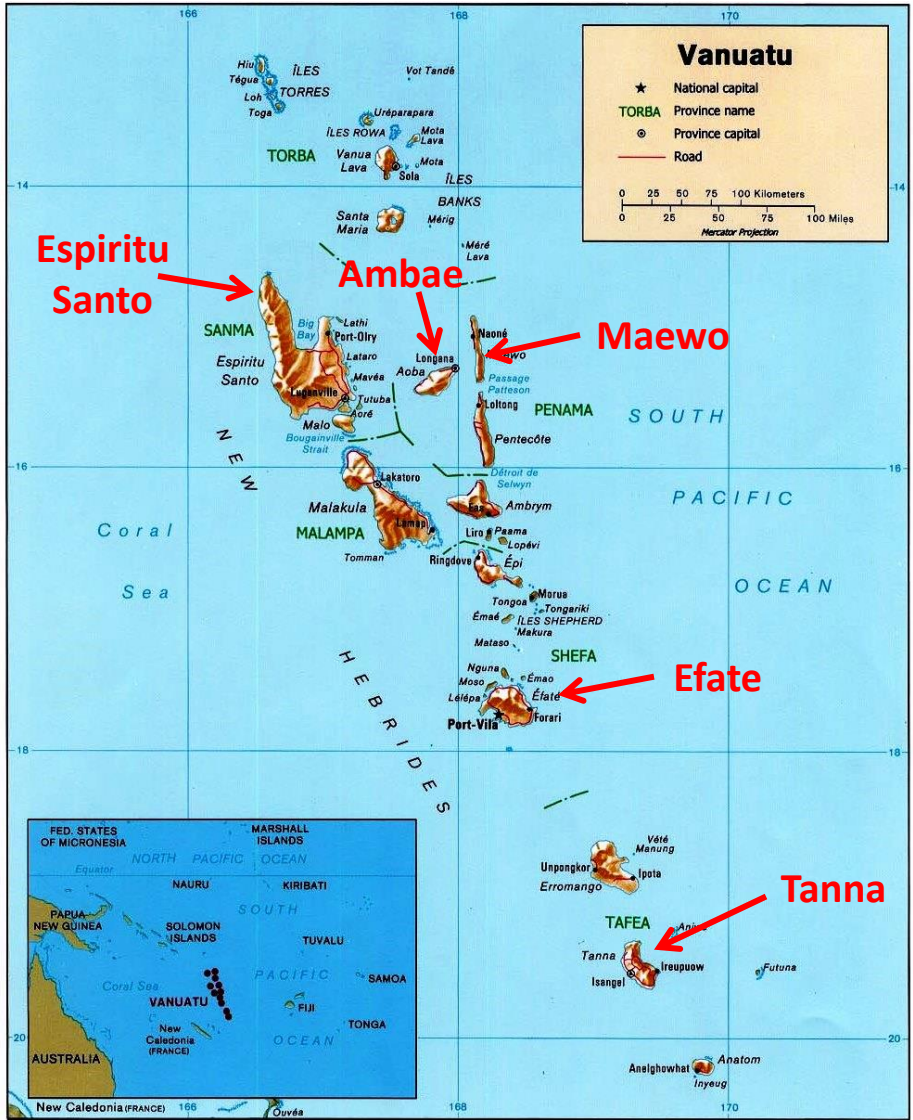
Why Was I There?



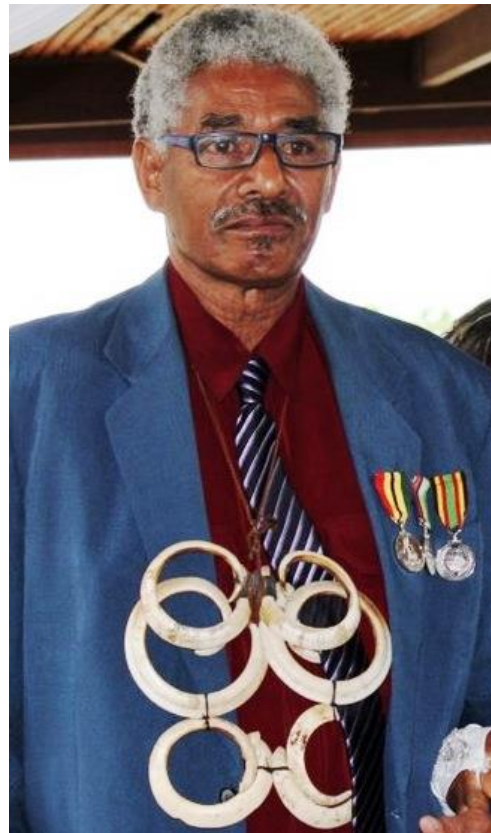
Vanuatu - A Quick Tour



Vanuatu is a country in the SW Pacific, with 83 high volcanic islands and 250,000 friendly people



Vanuatu is dominated by male chiefs, who rise in rank by killing sacred pigs with circular tusks





Vanuatu
DISCOVER WHAT MATTERS

Vanuatu has beautiful beaches, tall mountains, and fascinating people



83 beautiful islands



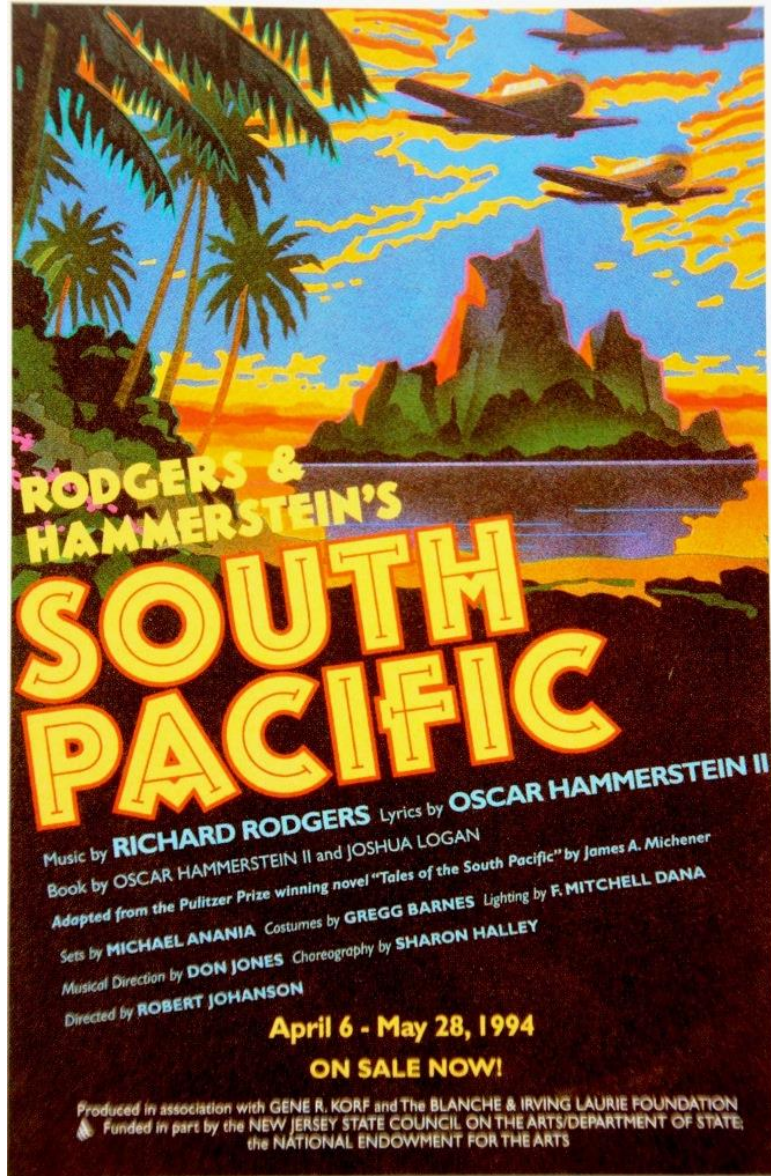




Great gardens and fabulous diving



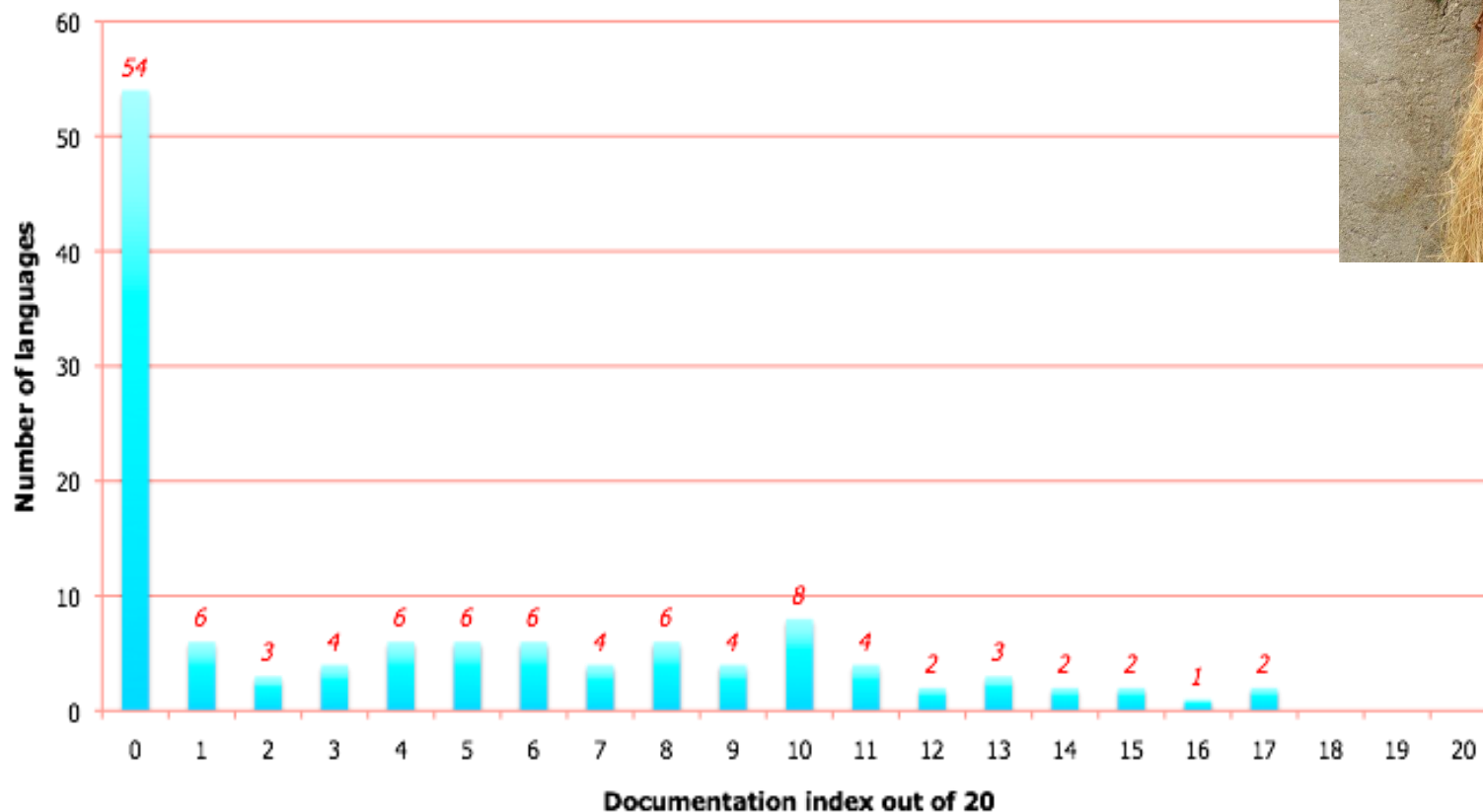
Lots of World War II history



With 123 languages, this is the most linguistically dense country on Earth -- but only 3% are fairly well documented



Documentation index, Vanuatu languages





Even stranger crabs!



Vanuatu - History



Timeline of Vanuatu

- ❖ 3000 BCE: Lapita Culture natives arrive from Taiwan, later inter-married with PNG and Solomons
- ❖ 1606: Spaniard Pedro de Quiros: “Terra Australis del Espiritu Santo”
- ❖ 1768: Frenchman Louis Antoine de Bougainville: “Grandes Cyclades”
- ❖ 1774: Captain James Cook: “New Hebrides”
- ❖ 1865: European settlers and missionaries
- ❖ 1870-1901: “blackbirding” era
- ❖ 1906 - 1980: British-Franco colonial “Condominium”
- ❖ July 1980: Independence and Constitution



Capt. Cook with natives



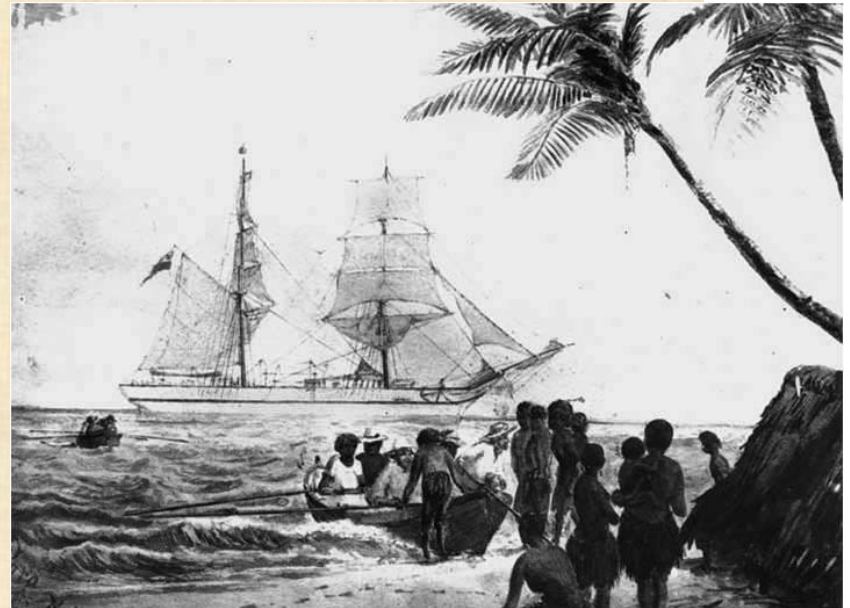
3000 year old Vanuatu skull
DNA tested in 2016



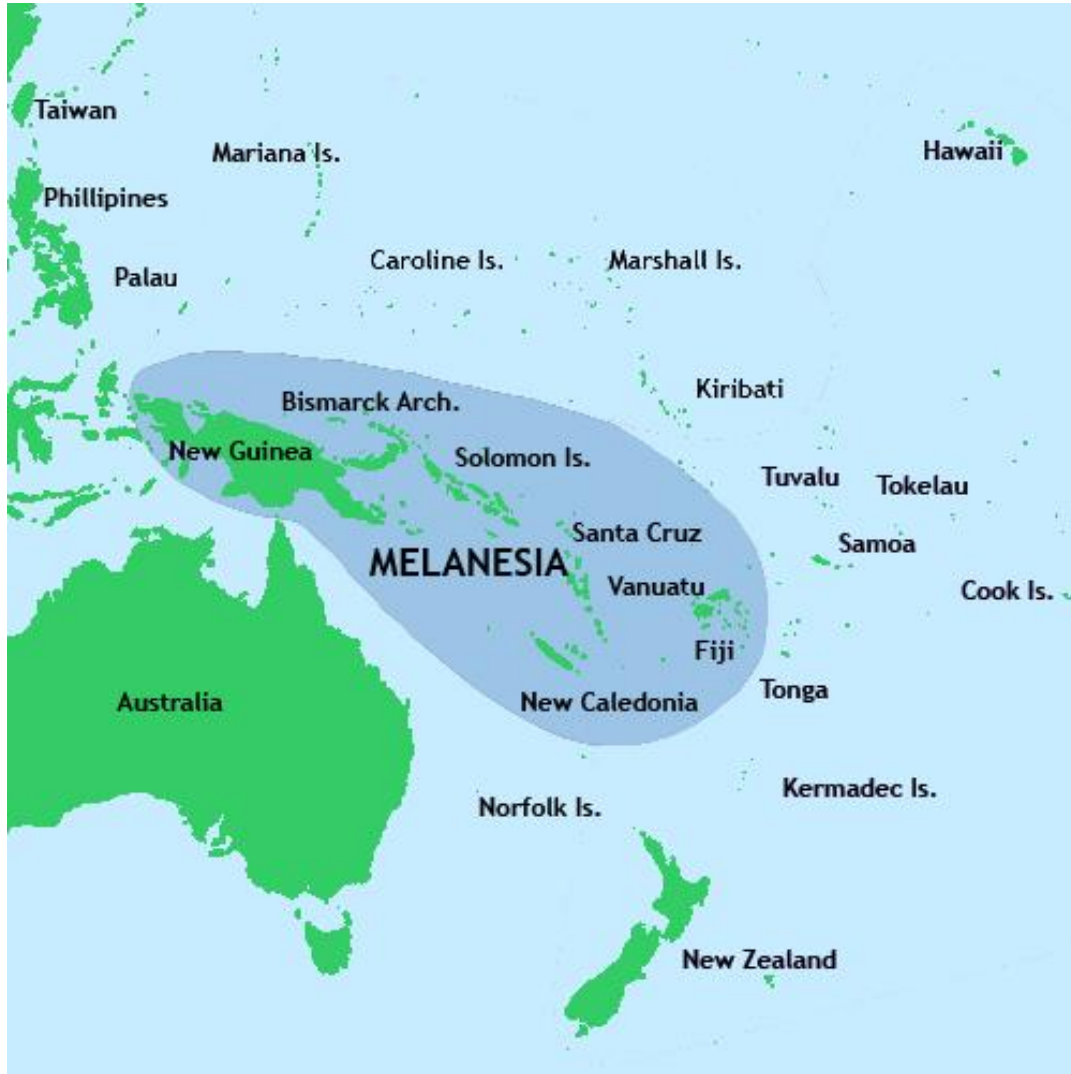
1906 map of the Condominium

What was 'blackbirding' and why did it come into existence?

- Even though slavery was abolished in the 1830s, people were still captured and enslaved.
- From the early 1860s there was a demand for cheap labour for plantations in Fiji and Queensland.
- Ship captains could profit from capturing South Sea Islanders, transporting them and selling them to sugar planters on the Australian coast.
- This was known as 'Blackbirding'



Blackbirding focused on Melanesia



Kanakas cutting cane on a Queensland plantation.



The Scale of the System



From 1863-1875 **10 500** islanders were blackbirded.

In total, between 1859 and 1900 more than 100 000 Pacific Islanders were 'recruited'.

Most (62 500) went to Queensland

About 5 000 went to Peru in South America.

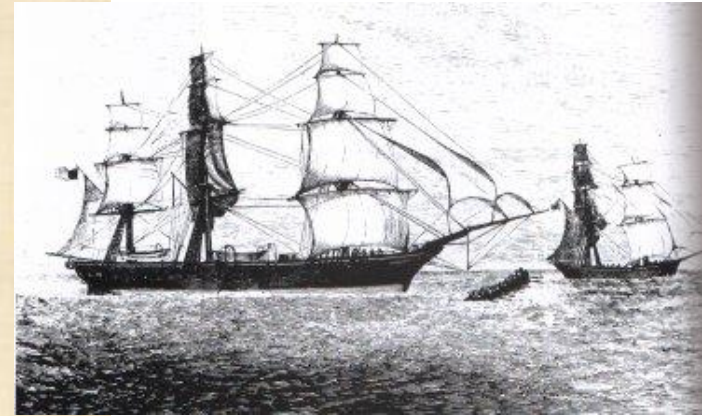
The rest went throughout the Pacific Islands.

The End of Blackbirding

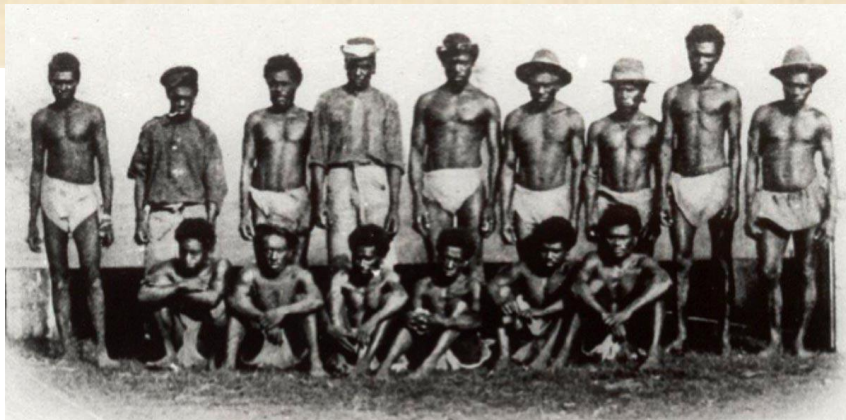
Following the public trial of Dr James Murray for shooting and killing 60 islanders on the brig *Carl*, public opinion put pressure on to end the slave trade.

From the mid 1870s the trade was replaced by a more regulated system of indenture with islanders agreeing to work in Australia for a fixed period of time.

Many argued that this just continued some of the worst features of blackbirding. The system officially ended in 1901 with the establishment of the White Australia Policy.

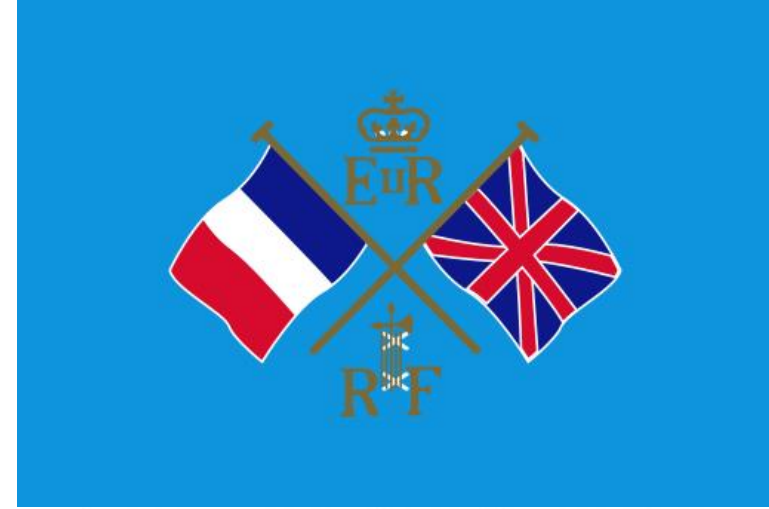


HMS *Rosario* seizing schooner *Carl* in 1871

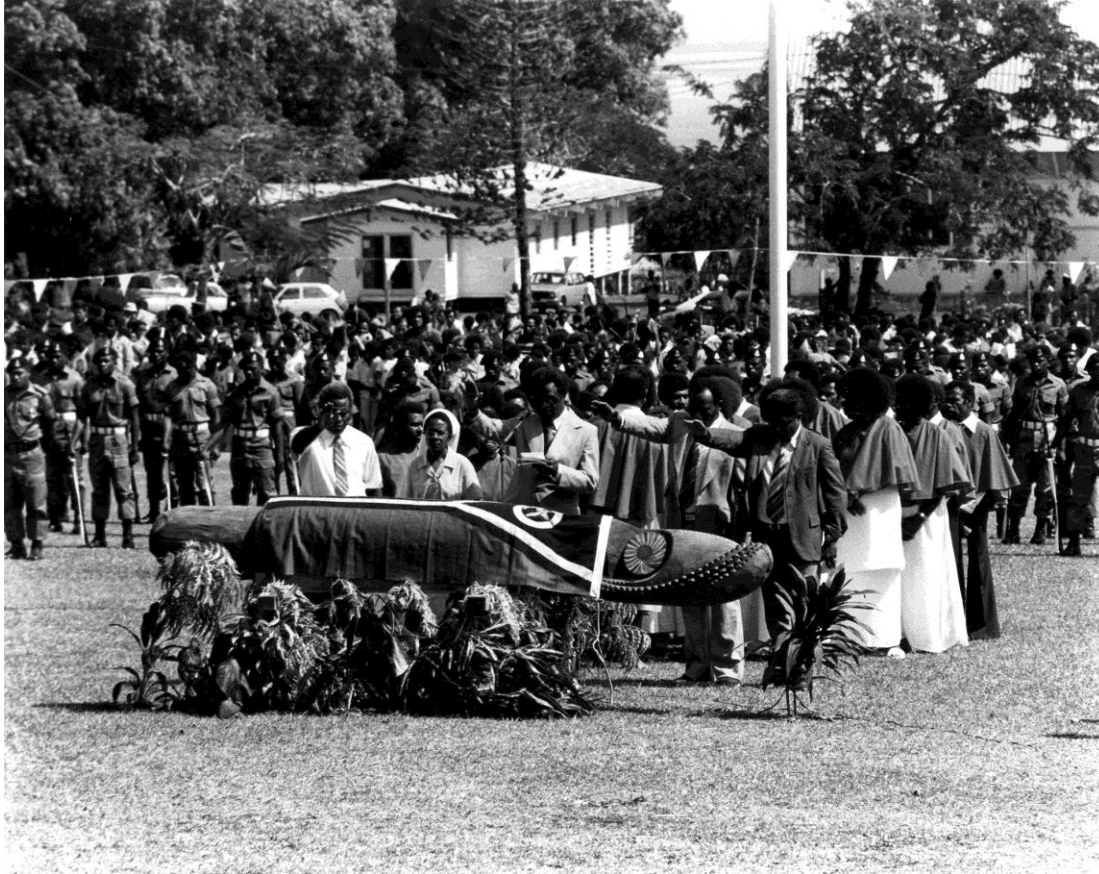


The 1906 Condominium = “Pandemonium”

- Two simultaneous colonial powers
- Two Governors-General
- Two police, courts, prisons
- Two official languages
- Two immigration policies
- Two health services
- Two education systems
- Two currencies
- **Drive on either side of the road!!!**



Finally: Independence in July 1980



Vanuatu - Daily Life



Two economies and two ways of life:

Port Vila (capital) & Luganville

- Two towns
- International air links
- Paved roads (sort of)
- Western expats, esp. Aus
- Chinese influence
- 1/5th of population
- 80% of Western economy
- Western style justice

Outer islands

- 1600 small villages on 64 islands
- 1-3 grass airstrips/island
- Poor dirt roads
- Native population
- 20% of Western economy but 90% of *Kastom* economy
- Chief's justice



Living on \$2 a month



Religion in Vanuatu

- 83% Christian
 - 32% Presbyterian
 - 13% Roman Catholic
 - 11% Seventh Day Adventist
 - 14% other, including Church of Christ, United Pentecostal, Mormons, Baptists
- 7% Animism
- 4% Buddhism
- 3% Bahai
- 3% Other, including 300 Muslims

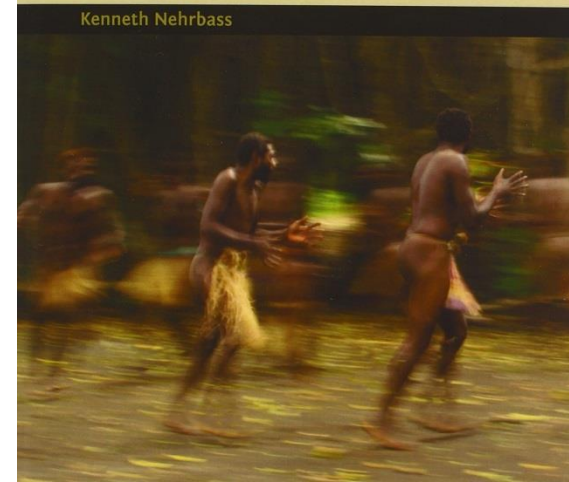
100% Black Magic!



Christianity and Animism in Melanesia

Four Approaches to Gospel and Culture

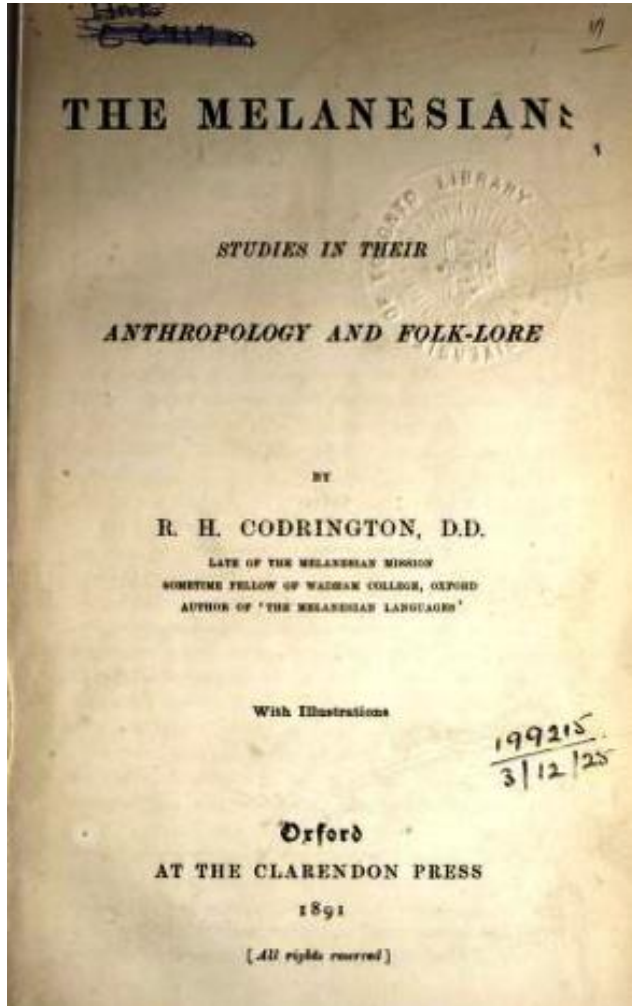
Kenneth Nehrbass



Vanuatu - Female Chiefs



For 126 years anthropologists stated or assumed that there were no female chiefs in Vanuatu

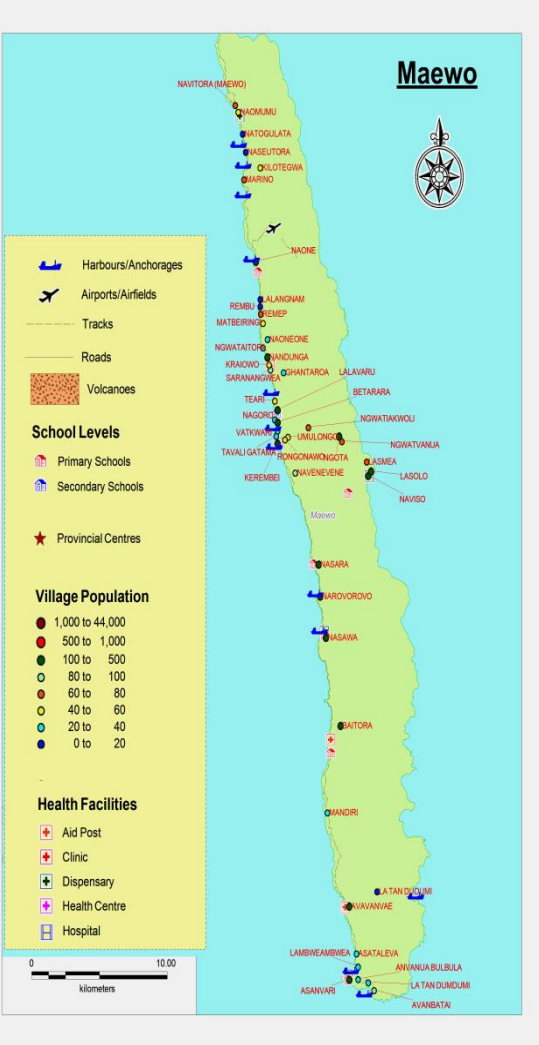
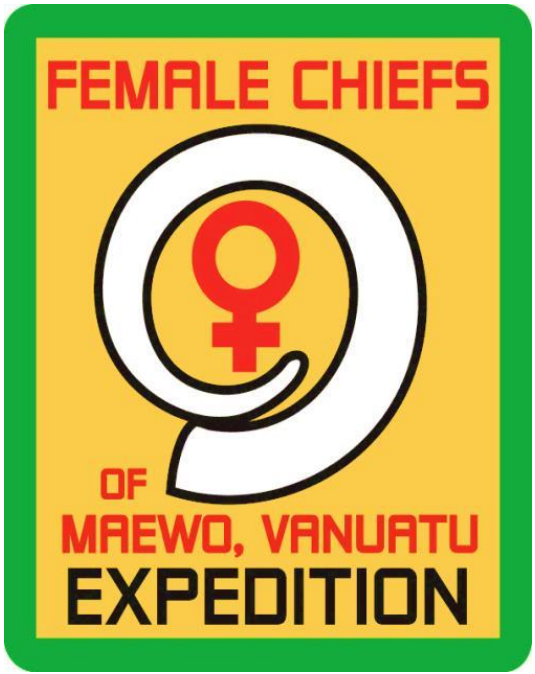


Codrington
in 1891:

“Women are
completely
excluded from
the *Suge* of the
men...”



Our team arrived on Maewo 8/2016 to observe the Women's Festival and interview female chiefs



We documented the Maewo Women's Cultural Festival



Traditional water fights



Famous "water music"



Bird dances

Learning dances



Sand painting



The Festival emphasized traditions



Women in traditional pandanus leaf garments

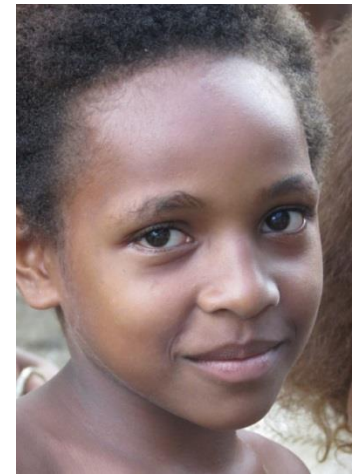


Males opened and closed the Festival



Cooking
w/ hot
rocks

Food
prep.
w/
bamboo
knife



Let's see the festival in video



Look for:

- ❖ Warriors w/ fronds
- ❖ 3 chiefs w/ white hats
- ❖ 1 MP w/ striped shirt
- ❖ Old woman w/ feather in hair
- ❖ Grating w/ no metal
- ❖ Cooking w/ hot rocks
- ❖ Singing while cooking
(2 min video)

But there was a problem...



...the Maewo women refused to be called "chiefs" - they preferred "Notari"

Doreen Leona and her mother, from Pentecost island, ARE female chiefs



Phoebe John was a chief on Pele island for seven years, the only chief in her village, and...



...she had all the powers and rights of a male chief!



Hilda Lini: most senior female chief



Eleven chiefly titles



M.P. for 11 years, was Minister twice



Founded institute for the study of local barter economics and ethnology; sister of founder of Vanuatu



Won two international peace prizes



Recognized as a chief by male chiefs



Can speak in the chiefs' "nakamals"



Killed 25+ sacred pigs in 15 ceremonies

Why Was I There?



Me: Senior Advisor in E-Gov and ICTs

- ✓ Paid by Australian Gov't
- ✓ 1-3 year contract, in-country
- ✓ Assess ICT situation
- ✓ Help develop National ICT Policy
- ✓ Move ICTs/E-Gov forward
- ✓ De-facto Chief of Staff to CIO

Prime Minister





















CIO



Telecom Regulator



Vanuatu is rated 135th of 190 countries in the world in the 2012 UNPAN survey of e-government status

<u>RANK</u>	<u>SCORE</u>	<u>COUNTRY</u>	<u>FLAG</u>
1	98.3/100	S. KOREA	
2	91.3	HOLLAND	
3	89.7	UK	
5	86.9	USA	
6	86.4	FRANCE	
12	83.9	AUSTRALIA	
13	83.8	NZ	
105	46.7	FIJI	
113	43.6	PALAU	
114	43.5	SAMOA	
134	35.4	TUVALU	
135	35.1	VANUATU	
141	32.4	NAURU	
146	31.3	MARSHALL IS.	
149	29.9	KIRIBATI	
168	24.2	SOLOMONS	
177	21.2	PAPUA N. G.	
190	6.4	SOMALIA	



VANUATU SCORE COMPONENTS

ONLINE SERVICE

22.2

INFRA-STRUCTURE

17.8

HUMAN CAPACITY

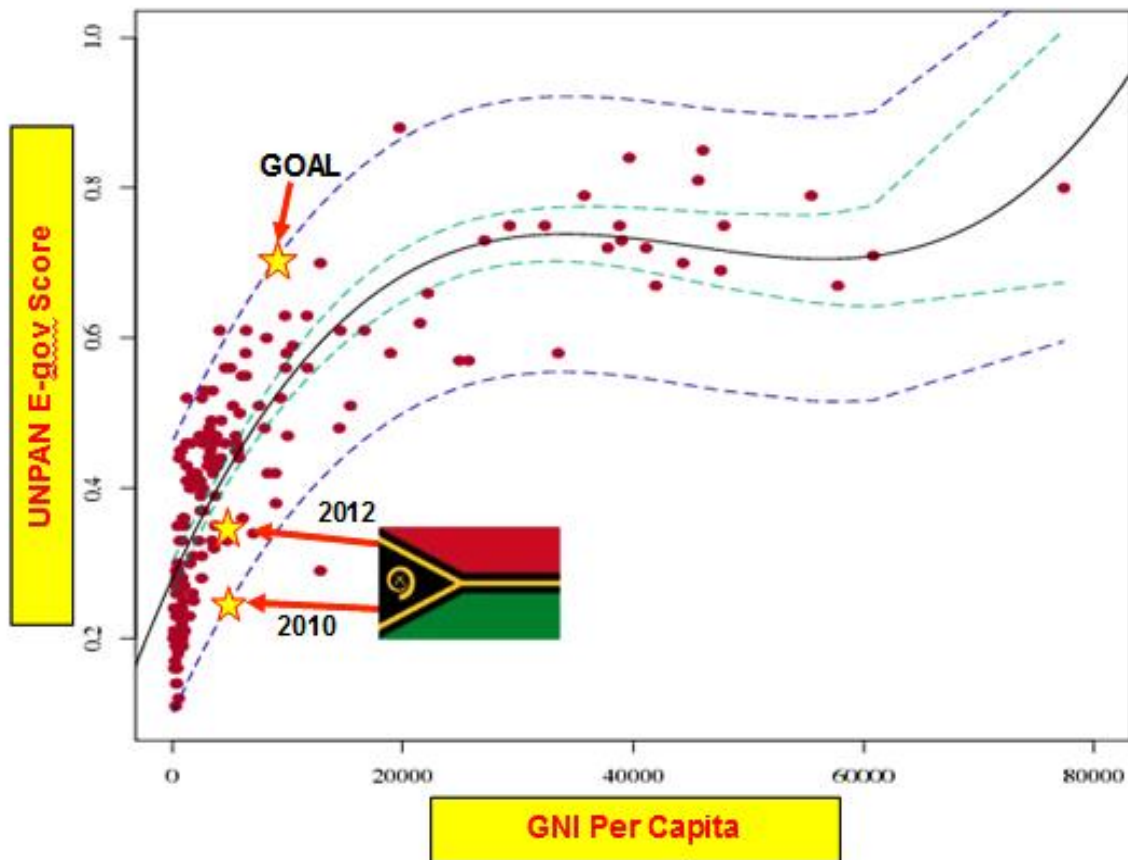
65.3

E-PARTICIPATION

5.3

Source: UN Public Administration Network, 2012

Vanuatu is ranked moderately low in the UNPAN e-gov report, but has made major progress in just two years, and is moving up in its income class



Scores:
 2010 e-gov: 0.2521;
 2012 e-gov: 0.3512
 GNI per cap: \$2640



Sources:
 UNPAN & TradingEconomics.com;
 Main chart from Morton Goodwin, "Is Financial Wealth Leading to High Quality Government Services?" Aug 2010, EGovernments.wordpress.com

The UNPAN E-gov analysis relies on 4 pillars

On Line Service Index

- Location in 4 stages of devel.
- Quality, user-friendliness & design of govt websites
- Presence of national portal & ministerial sites
- Movement towards citizen-centric, Web 2.0 approaches

Telecom Infrastructure

- Internet users/100 pop.
- Fixed phone lines/100 pop.
- Mobile subs/100 pop.
- Fixed Internet subs/100 pop.
- Fixed broadband/100 pop.

Human Capital Index

- Adult literacy
- Primary, 2ndary, tertiary enrollment ratio

E-Participation

- E-info sharing
- E-consultation
- E-decision-making

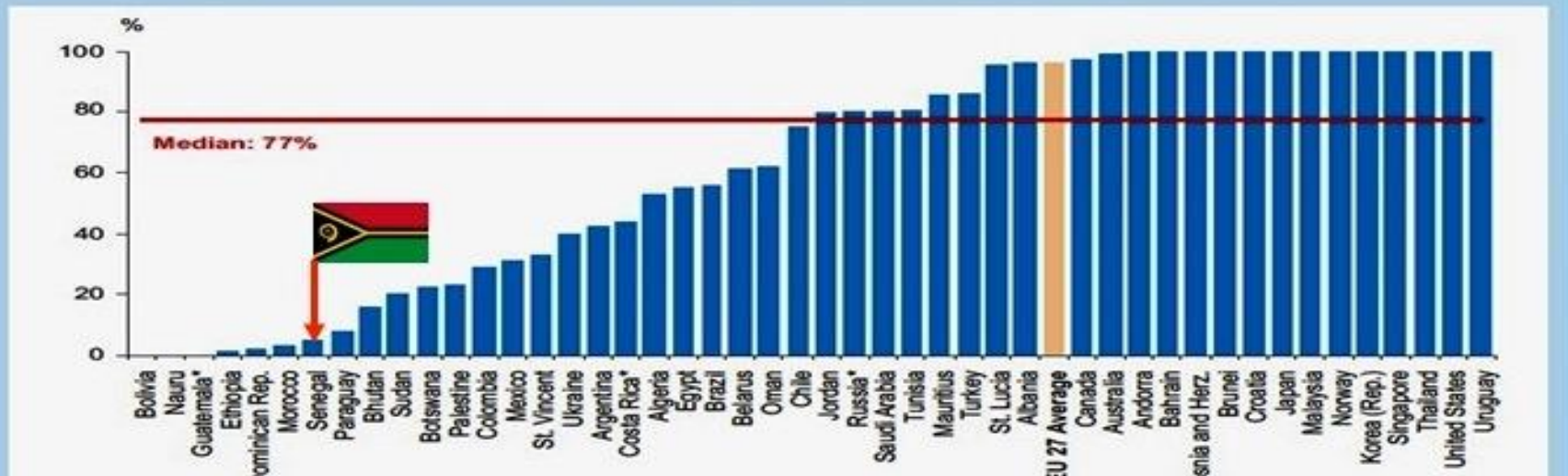
My study of ICTs in the schools found that there were only 300 computers for 61,000 students



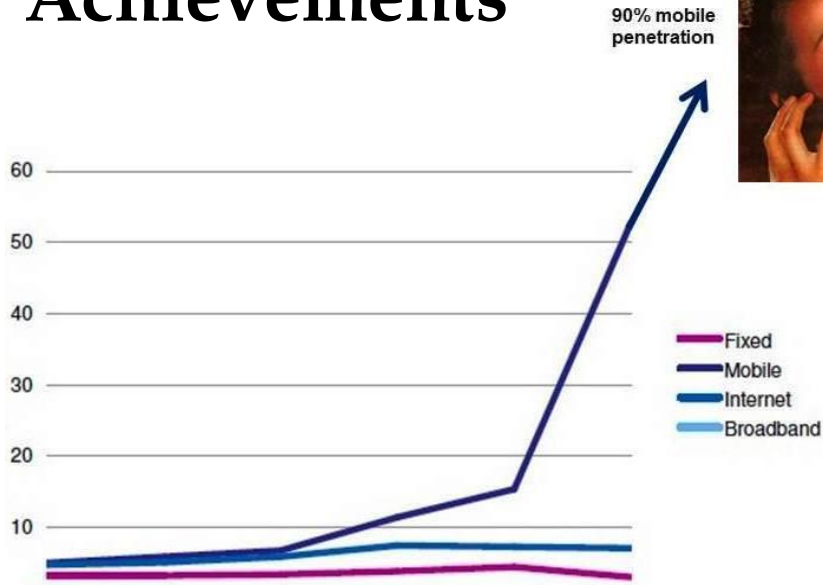
Only 6% of schools have Internet access

- ☹️ 5% of students have Internet access
- ☹️ 14th percentile of 48 countries reporting to ITU
- ☹️ About the same as Senegal

Chart 2.4: Proportion of schools with Internet access (for ISCED levels 1-3), 2008-09**



Achievements



Internet Providers, Govt Chief Information Officer and TRF's Ron Bui seal the agreement with handshakes.

Vanuatu establishes Internet Exchange Point

Compiled by Glenda Shing.

VANUATU IS THE FIRST COUNTRY in the Pacific to establish the Internet Exchange Point (VIX) as agreed upon and signed by Internet Providers in Vanuatu to create a more vibrant and affordable local internet.

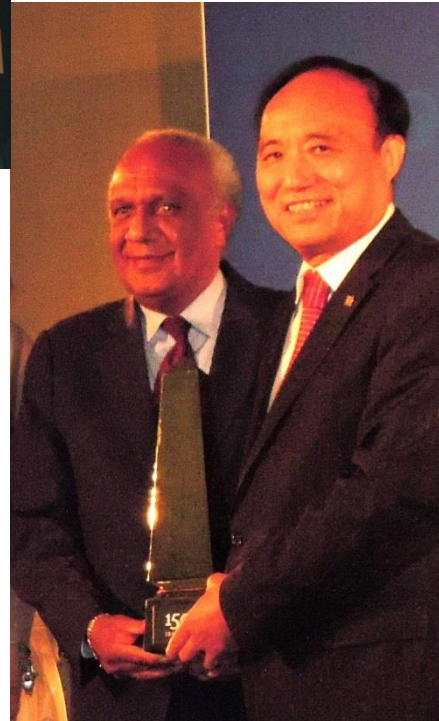
This simply means that people who are using internet will no longer wait for slow and painful delays when surfing on net, either by using their mobile phones or computers and laptops, as in the coming months the road for the local internet travels will get a lot shorter.

By signing the agreement, the internet providers would be able to connect their information networks at a single point. It was noted that the key addition to the national communications infrastructure will now allow providers of Internet Services to send and receive local data directly to one another, rather than using up scarce, expensive satellite bandwidth.

Benefits that consumers would get from VIX include avoiding costly satellite fees, local providers not only achieve huge cost savings, and they can also improve the speed and level of service to their customers. On the other hand, providers expect lower costs for local traffic and better performance than ever before.

The VIX project is receiving financial, technical and material support from a number of key internet agencies, including the Asia-Pacific Network Information Centre (APNIC) and Packet Clearing House, who have also assisted numerous countries in establishing such facilities.

Vanuatu received a UN ITU award for “Sustainable Progress in E-Government”



The VANUATU TIMES
 ALL 3 NATIONAL LANGUAGES
 VANUATU'S INDIGENEOUS OWNED NEWSPAPER

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27 September - 03 October 2013 20 Pages 100 VT Issue No. 199

Wael Pig
 Karem ol toolblo hanting blo yu ma ko kasem plante pig!

PRAES		
Rank 1 - 300,000 VT	Rank 2 - 150,000 VT	Rank 3 - 50,000 VT

“Vanuatu ICT charging ahead on 5 fronts”: OGCIO

By Jean-Baptiste CALO

According to the government's Chief Information Officer, Fred Samson, the Government's goal is to go full speed ahead on all fronts, and do it in a year or two what many countries take a decade to do. He says that the Government is going full speed ahead on all fronts.

maximum consultation and inclusion. The new Vanuatu Internet Exchange (VIX) as part of this system.

2. Universal access -- we are working with TRC and Aualala to get laptops and computer labs in the schools, to local residents to access the Internet.

3. The submarine cable -- this is

future. Don't believe it!

5. Standardization of computers within the government -- OGCIO is working with all ministries to standardize computer purchases. This is already leading to big savings in costs for new computers and computer licenses.

Tank Yu Tumas!

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QUESTIONS?

