State Building in the Pacific: Australian development assistance

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Summary

• Fukuyama ideas in context: moving from capacity building to nation building
• Current directions in state building
• Relations between citizens & states
• Leadership
Capacity Building to Nation Building:

- Development strategies now longer-term
- Support for improved governance moving beyond technical capacity building inputs
- Greater attention to political governance
Capacity Building to Nation Building: 2

- Fukuyama’s ideas parallel new approaches being trialled/considered to:
  - overcome dysfunctional bureaucracies
  - improve decentralised service delivery
  - encourage new leadership elites
  - use economic development for nation-building
  - investigate limits of capacity building & opportunities for delegation of sovereignty
Current directions in state building:

- Partnerships for Development
  - local ownership of reform & incentives
  - mutual responsibility / accountability
- Improving local service delivery
  - sub-national planning & budgeting
  - inter-governmental financing
  - alternative service delivery models
Current directions in state building: 2

• Investing in Pacific Public Sector Capacity
  – over 20,000 training places / 4 years to systematically addressing public workforce development needs
  – new entrants, basic skills, management
  – strengthening regional tertiary institutions

• Recognising limits to capacity building
  – Alternatives: capacity filling, delegation
Relations between citizens & states: 1

• Building demand for better governance
  - Governance > government & state institutions
  - Supporting non-state actors to represent community interests to government
  - Promoting participatory planning & partnerships with government
  - Promoting citizens’ voice and state accountability
Relations between citizens & states: 2

- Examples include:
  - Strongim Pipol Kirapim Nesen $150m/5 years
  - Measuring citizens’ perceptions of government
  - Promoting citizens’ awareness of rights & responsibilities
  - Increasing citizens’ access to justice
Leadership: 1

• Increasing focus on relationship between leadership & national development
• Scholarships as a key leadership development tool
  – Australian Leadership Awards, including a Leadership Development Program to enhance scholars’ leadership knowledge, skills, networks
Leadership : 2

- Pacific Leadership Program
  - Supporting improved leadership practice
  - Current & emerging Pacific leaders
  - Local, national & regional levels
  - Policy engagement on key leadership issues
  - Pacific research on leadership & governance
  - Focus on women’s & youth leadership, private sector, churches, NGOs