

Finau

PHD Editor

'Emergency Health in the Pacific' is a tautology. Not only is the proposition true but emergency, health and Pacific conveys the urgency of a threat to biopsychosocial life of Pacificans.

Even before the fateful day of September 11, the Pacific has been oppressed by colonialism, imperialism, structural adjustment and globalisation. Peoples, cultures and environments have been under siege. Instruments of penetration like religion, education, health, armies and technology have been used to pierce the heart and health of Pacificans for the enhancement of the rich country dwellers' consumption.

On a good day health is essential and always a pressing and urgent need. To talk of emergency health is to say that other health needs are not so pressing. Everyday health is an urgent priority! It must be addressed if we are to be happy and productive, and these are the Pacificans' daily bread. Similarly emergency is an urgent thought and action that is

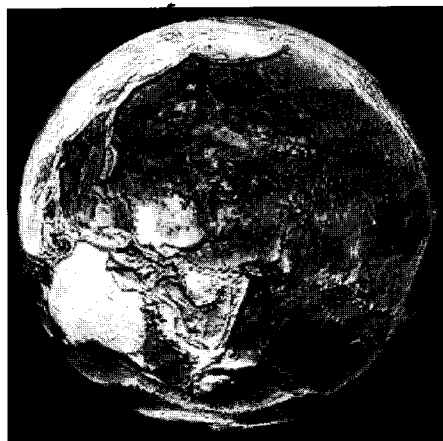
essential for happiness and productivity. The same urgency is present in health and being Pacifican. Thus the claim of tautologous statement. But this is the emphatic nature of rhetoric and reality in the Pacific that is crying out for action especially by Pacificans for Pacificans.

In this issue we thank the Center for Disease Control and Prevention bringing the Pacific onto the screen. The emphasis on readiness and planning to mitigate the effect and perhaps prevent disasters is refreshing but a challenge for societies under seige where living in a daily uncertainty and survival is the emergency.

It is also pleasing that Thaman, Meleisia and Makasiale advocate traditional wisdom as fundamental to emergencies beyond survival. Keim pre-empted this notion in his editorial. It is for us to build on these to enhance survival and to address health, emergency and Pacific beyond daily bread.

Other articles are also included in this issue of PHD. These raise urgent matters of interest to Pacificans viz boy's circumcision, breast feeding, family planning and drug legislation. These are the urgent health issues of yesterday, today and tomorrow. The coverage of the urgent, the emergent and emergency is crucial for health.

Thus perserverance and tautology make the PHD matter!



The Pacific - a relief map. The deep ocean mountain ranges are the basis for the Pacific islands.

Photo courtesy NASA

"Take time to laugh, it's the music of the soul"

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