

## **Pacific workshop to increase use of census results also builds South-South cooperation**

Twenty producers and users of statistics met in Suva, Fiji from 25 to 29 July 2011 to discuss how to increase the use of population and housing census results by policymakers. With participants from five Pacific island countries - Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu – as well as Indonesia and Timor-Leste, the workshop also served to strengthen cooperation across the Asia-Pacific region.

A national population and housing census is a rich source of information, providing both an essential data benchmark as well as the possibility to compare a wide range of individual and household characteristics. Census results are particularly valuable for gender analysis. During the workshop, national statistical offices and agencies agreed on the need to develop and implement dissemination and communication strategies to ensure policymakers and other user groups use census data effectively.

The workshop focused on better understanding the needs of data users, steps involved in conducting gender analysis, building statistical literacy, developing dissemination strategies, new methods for dissemination and how to make statistics interesting through good writing and presentation.

Jointly organized by SIAP, UNFPA and the University of the South Pacific (USP), the workshop was held at the attractive USP Laucala Bay Campus in Suva. Ms. Jessica Gardner, SIAP consultant, guided participants through a range of learning and practical exercises in the dissemination and communication of census results.