



## **Specific aims**

- a) To lift MBC to another level of attainment and development through more innovation-led research, a

## 2. Institutional growth

This involves two aspects – horizontal and vertical growth.

**Horizontal growth:** This entails expanding and strengthening relationships and networks with universities, research institutes, international agencies, regional organizations, national institutions, community organizations, industry, individual scholars and research networks. The nature of the relationship will depend on those concerned and will involve joint projects on research, publication, policy analysis and teaching; visiting fellowship; staff exchange; student exchange; sharing of resources and other forms of joint

**Vertical growth:** This refers to building up research, policy and professional capacity while increasing publicity, status and recognition of MBC through its activities as well as connections with national, regional and international institutions mentioned above. In large measure, vertical growth also depends on horizontal growth. The two go hand in hand, in fact at times can be symbiotic in nature.

## 3. Promoting innovative research excellence

MBC will promote research excellence by pursuing a multidisciplinary, multi-methodology, multi-issue and innovative approach towards research on a range of Pacific issues including climate change, environment, technology, health, migration, population, development, politics, law, art, culture, governance, security, indigenous knowledge and intellectual property, human rights, education, conflict and peace building, diaspora identity, etc. There is no particular restriction on the theme. Research students and visiting scholars will focus on any one of these, depending on their research interests and expertise. This is expected to attract a more diverse range of scholars as well as give MBC greater flexibility, exposure and holism – qualities which most Pacific studies centres in New Zealand lack. For convenience of classification and administration the researches will be classified under fo331.63 31(8e3(li)6(t1233.,9



A plan will soon be in place to attract and recruit national, regional and international research students into MBC. This will require creating a good student attraction package and more proactive publicity.

Plans for writing of new Pacific undergraduate courses would need a comprehensive preparatory process involving carrying out an evaluation of why enrolment numbers have been down, relooking at the relevance and marketability of the course contents, re-examining the pedagogical tools and approach and identifying the right level and time for offering. Also important is how this is linked to post-graduate studies to ensure that students know that there is an academic track for them from undergraduate Pacific Studies to research degree.

## **7. Public and international profiling**



research, projects and activities; latest news on Pacific research around the country, region and the world; and major social, cultural, political and economic issues in the Pacific. A page will be dedicated to promoting some of the MBC library unique resources.

- f) **Publishing Pacific ōGw̄kdeö uetkeu:** This involves MBC producing a series of professional guidebooks for policy makers, scholars, students and general public on a series of issues such as security, governance, social protection, sea level rise, art, music, gender, etc. on the Pacific.

## **11. Data base for Pacific research**

MBC will work towards hosting a major multidisciplinary data base for Pacific research. This involves creating an electronic database which is linked to other universities, governments, media and other organizations around the world.

## **12. Staff**

Initially one of the requirements is for a multi-skilled person who can carry out different tasks. The person should have skills relating to IT graphics, research software use, web design and online publishing, apart from the usual skills in financial, administrative and logistical organizations. When needed, some post-graduate students will also be employed as research assistants to carry out some technical, administrative and logistical responsibilities.

Fellows can be employed through contested funds such as Marsden and HRC and voluntary employees, especially by scholars on leave will be welcomed.

## **13. Conferences**

MBC will aim to organize an annual conference series on specific themes which may vary from year to year to attract experts and those interested in the issues concerned. The conferences maybe referred to as the Pacific World series.

## **14. Seminar series**

A monthly seminar series for scholars, researcher and research students will be organized to ensure healthy and vigorous debates on critical issues.

## **15. Lecture series**

The MBC lecture series will be revived.

## **17. Pacific community relations**

The precise areas of engagement with the Pacific community need to be defined to ensure greater clarity and avoid confusion. Any engagement with the community should be based on areas in which MBC has mandate and expertise in such as participatory community research, community policy analysis and advice on various issues such as identity, health, socio-economic conditions, marginalization, educational achievement,