

Peace Corps volunteers to boost human resource in education

Twenty-two Peace Corps volunteers are undergoing an eleven-week pre-service training to prepare them for their two years of service in the country, starting January 2003. They arrived on the 16th of October.

The group will be pooled into the education sector to strengthen its human resource. Their assignments will include primary teacher training with the curriculum zones, training of math, science and information technology at secondary and "Top Up" schools, teaching of English as a second language in the Francophone school system, and serving as instructors and management advisors at rural training centers.

The first eight days of training was held at the new Peace Corps Volunteer Training and Resource Centre at Namba 2. The trainees left the capital on October 23 to live with host families in Puanangisu on North Efate. Their pre-service training is designed to

prepare new volunteers to communicate effectively in Bislama, relate to the country's culture and acquire additional technical skills.

Each volunteer lives with a host family which provides a "real life" experience that complements Peace Corps formal language and cross-cultural training. This is the second pre-service training this year at Puanangisu.

The previous training group involved volunteers working in youth development, agriculture and environment. Previous training sites in North Efate include Emua, Siviri and Saama.

They will join 53 Peace Corps volunteers currently working in communities on sixteen different islands.

The Peace Corps was founded 41 years ago by

President John F. Kennedy to promote peace, development and cultural understanding through a people to people assistance program. Approximately 7000 Peace Corps volunteers currently serve in nearly 80 countries around the world. More than 165,000 men and women have joined the Peace Corps and served in 135 countries since its inception. Peace Corps have served in Vanuatu since 1989. WT



The Peace Corps volunteers ready to take over their new assignments in the education sector