



Kiribati's President plea for help

By Online Editor

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Kiribati President, Anote Tong

Kiribati President, Anote Tong pleaded for the future of his country because of the threats of climate change, in a video shown at the launch of the State of the World's Children Report 2011 at the University of the South Pacific.

“For low lying countries, such as Kiribati, which are at the frontline of climate change, the threat it poses is real and immediate. The economic disruption could be catastrophic, even requiring the population to relocate to other countries,” said Tong.

The President called for action from families, communities and governments of developed nations to partner the country in working towards the secure future of their children and adolescents.

UNICEF representative, Dr Isiye Ndombi said climate change challenges required collective

action from stakeholders to safeguard the health and well being of children and adolescents.

“Young people in the Pacific, like anywhere else in the world are deeply concerned about how climate change will affect their future and are calling for urgent action,” said Dr Ndombi.

Co-chair of the Econesian Society, Sainimere Veitata said children and young people of this generation would be the worst affected by the deteriorating environment.

“They will bear the brunt of economic disruption and the cost of mitigating and adapting to climate change in the years to come,” she said.

The Econesian society, in collaboration with Nesian350 organised workshops where youths from the Pacific region were trained by experts on being better Climate Change advocates.

SOURCE: FIJI TIMES/PACNEWS