

## **Tonga commits to women empowerment and gender equality**

By Online Editor

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Director of women's affairs, Polotu Paunga

Tonga's director of women's affairs, Polotu Paunga says the island kingdom has made a lot of commitment towards women empowerment and gender equality.

Speaking from the 9th Meeting of the Commonwealth Gender Plan of Action Monitoring Group (CGPMG) in New York, she told Radio Tonga News a major outcome of the annual consultation this year was the confirmation of the Framework of Monitoring and Evaluation of the implementation of the revised 1995 - 2015 Commonwealth Plan of Action on Gender and Development.

Tonga is one of 10 Pacific Island Countries that is a member of the CGPMG.

Meanwhile, Tongan handicrafts displayed at a Pacific Handicraft Exhibition in Australia are popular among visitors.

A senior officer from the Ministry of Labour's Tonga Trade Investment Unit, Tevita Lautaha said the first day of the exhibition was a success for Tongan traditional handicrafts.

Three Tongan men whose products are on display, collected more than AU\$16,000 on the first day.

This is the second year Tonga has participated in this exhibition, which began last Wednesday. It will end on 11 March.

Lautaha, who was in Australia at the beginning of the exhibition said necklaces were among the top items that were popular on the first day.

Another group is expected to take part in similar show in New Zealand soon. According to Lautaha, the Trade and Investment Unit of the Ministry is determined to showcase local handicrafts in overseas exhibitions.

SOURCE: RADIO TONGA/PACNEWS