



Short bios of Conference Lunch Speakers

Ms. Merilyn Tahī, Coordinator of the Vanuatu Women's Centre

Ms. Merilyn Tahī, coordinator of the Vanuatu Women's Centre (since 1994), was awarded the 'WOMEN OF COURAGE' award by the USA Government in 2009 for her work on Violence against women and children in Vanuatu. She was the 2nd Political Advisor in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (1990/91), and has also held the positions of Assistant Secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Protocol) from 1983-1986 and Director for Vanuatu Centre for International Relations (1986 – 1990).

Ms. Tahī's experience includes the positions of Chairperson of Vanuatu Association of Non-Government Organisations (*VANGO*), President of Vanuatu National Council of Women and President of Vanuatu Netball Association.

Mr. Mark Ingram, Chief Executive Officer, Business for Millennium Development

Mark Ingram served as the New Zealand Consul General to Australia and Trade Commissioner for Biotechnology from 2003 - 2007. During this period, Mr. Ingram brokered the establishment of the Australia New Zealand Biotech Alliance, founded the New Zealand Victoria Business Group, and led the first official visit of the Victorian State Premier to New Zealand in over 50 years.

Prior to his diplomatic posting, Mr. Ingram had worked for New Zealand Trade and Enterprise as an Export Consultant from 2001-2002. He also spent 7 years working in international trade with Anthony Marquet Ltd (1999 - 2001) as Trading Manager and with the large Japanese trading house Kanematsu Corporation (1994 - 1998) as Metals Division Assistant Manager. Mr. Ingram is currently a member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors and a member of the Advisory Committee for Human Security at La Trobe University.