



2011 아시아태평양 매스미디어와 국제이해교육 포럼

2011 Asia-Pacific Forum on Mass Media
and Education for International Understanding

Culture and Education Sustaining 'Tagata Niue', A Dying Race - Survival of Taoga Niue

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The presentation discusses the various efforts that are taken to maintain Niue's national and cultural identity. Niue is a lone island in the South Pacific with a majority of its people living abroad. This poses a problem for the survival of 'Tagata Niue' (inhabitants of Niue) and the 'Taoga' (cultural treasures).

Niueans are a minority amongst the various cultures of the world and the realization of this dilemma prompted the development of Taoga Niue in 2004 and the movement to sustain and revive various aspects of Taoga Niue.

Throughout the process and discussions with a number of key Niuean community leaders in Niue and those living abroad, various viewpoints on the value of 'Taoga' and especially the 'Vagahau Niue' (Niuean language) were highlighted. It also focuses on the challenges of living in a multicultural society whilst trying to maintain one's own identity. The presentation has important implications for the initiatives taken by communities on the island and abroad to sustain, maintain or revive Taoga Niue.

In conclusion, for any aspects of cultural heritage to survive, it must be practiced and used by people of all levels. The future of Niue's cultural heritage is in the hands of its people, 'Tagata Niue'. There also needs to be a political support to create a greater understanding of a unique culture and enrich the world with the existence of 'Tagata Niue'.