‘an ocean of solidarity’
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Message from the OFC President

“It gives me great pleasure to present this activity report offering a comprehensive account of Oceania Football Confederation’s tasks for the period January 2008 to December 2008.”

Reynald Temarii
OFC President
FIFA President
FIFA Vice-President
OFC and its Members Associations

OFC has sought to maintain positive relationships with all Member Associations by providing support and leadership while also encouraging autonomy to ensure the development of the game within the Oceania region continues.

Football Federation American Samoa (FFAS) completed its first year under the guidance of President Iuli Alex Godinet and his team of administrators withPago Youth triumphing in the FFAS Men’s Senior Competition. The FFAS official website www.ffas.com as continues to be a beacon for football news in the territory and the appointment of Brian Vitoli as FFAS Media Officer is a first for the federation. Filiga Kerisiano made history for women’s football in American Samoa when she was nominated for the OFC Women’s Player of the Year Award. Kerisiano starred in goal for American Samoa with a string of brave performances including their historic 1-1 draw against Papua New Guinea. She was nominated for the OFC Women’s Player of the Year Award. Kerisiano starred in goal for American Samoa with a string of brave performances including their historic 1-1 draw.

2008 was a year of achievement for New Caledonia with the undoubted highlight the hosting of the Christian Karembeu Jubilee. Federation Caledonienne de Football (FCF) capped off a memorable week with the inauguration of its FIFA Goal Project in Païta. FIFA President Joseph S. Blatter cut the ribbon as a crowd of over 5,000 watched on. Earlier New Caledonia had hosted the OFC Extraordinary Congress and the OFC Women’s World Cup. The national men’s team finished its 2010 FIFA World Cup South Africa™ campaign as runners-up – its highest ever placing – and finished a credible fifth at the 2008 Coupe de L’Outre-Mer in France. Pierre Wajoka and Benjamin Longue won recognition for their abilities being named in the Oceania All Stars squad. National team skipper Wajoka was also nominated for OFC Player of the Year Award.

New Zealand Football (NZF) continued in its role as the region’s leading football nation and hosted the hugely successful FIFA U-17 Women’s World Cup. New Zealand performed credibly at the U-17 event as well as the FIFA U-20 Women’s World Cup Chile 2008, FIFA Men’s Olympic Football Tournament and FIFA Women’s Olympic Football Tournament. The All Whites won the OFC Nations Cup and will advance to the FIFA Confederations Cup South Africa 2009 and also have a chance of qualifying for the 2010 FIFA World Cup South Africa™. Waitakere United won the New Zealand Football Championship and 2008 OFC O-League double before advancing to the FIFA Club World Cup Japan 2008 where they played out a heroic match with Adelaide United. Waitakere lost 1-2 but won plaudits for their audacious display.

The year 2008 proved to be a groundbreaking one for the Papua New Guinea Football Association (PNGFA) with club champions Hekari Souths winning the National Soccer League title for the second year in a row. Hekari qualified for the 2009 O-League competition for the first time. The men’s U-23 international team returned to the regional stage and enjoyed two big wins over Vanuatu and Cook Islands. David Muta, Tau Winnie and Raymond Gunemba were the stars for Papua New Guinea with Muta transferring to Australian club Sunshine Coast and being named in the Oceania All Stars squad.

Samoa emerged from a year of administrative complications with a sense of renewed optimism. Suspended by FIFA and OFC from all football activities in October. Samoa (Football) Soccer Federation (SFSF) had the suspension lifted two months later. This allowed the implementation of a Normalisation Committee process to at last get underway. David Brand – a former national team coach of American Samoa and Samoa – was named as interim Chairman of the Normalisation Committee. The appointment of a new CEO Colin Tuga in 2009 provides further encouragement as Samoa looks to re-establish its football activities in the coming years.

A regular performer on the FIFA world stage, the Solomon Islands saw both its Futsal and Beach Soccer teams perform at World Cup events with mixed results. Biikiki celebrated a hard earned win over El Salvador at the FIFA Beach Soccer World Cup but Solomon Islands suffered for their inexperience at the FIFA Futsal World Cup losing all four group matches. Meanwhile Kossa FC finished runners-up in the 2008 O-League after losing to Waitakere United 3-0 on aggregate but could point to a 3-1 win in the first leg in front of a partisan crowd of 25,000. Off the pitch, Solomon Islands Football Federation (SIF) was the first recipient of the “Win in Oceania with Oceania” development programme when the OFC Television Pilot Project was implemented during the Waitak competition.

Tahiti enjoyed success under the tutelage of Federation Tahitienne de Football (FTF) President and OFC President Reynald Temani. The appointment of former FIFA World Cup winner Lionel Charbonnier as FTF Technical Director and National Team coach saw the Tahiti U-20 men’s side become the first Island team to qualify for a FIFA field football event when it won the OFC U-20 Championship. As Manu Ura won the Championnat while AS Tefana achieved its second Coupe de Polynésie victory. Tahiti were represented at the Coupe de L’Outre-Mer by AS Manu Ura but finished in last place. Mimoso Marmouyet was nominated for the OFC Women’s Player of the Year Award and, in a retrospective vote, Marama Vahina was named as the OFC Men’s Player of the Year 2005.

The highlight for Tonga Football Association (TFA) was the nomination of goalkeeper Mele Likiliki as OFC Women’s Player of the Year 2008. The 25-year-old goalkeeper turned in a raft of excellent performances for her country in the OFC Women’s Championship and XIII South Pacific Games Women’s Football Tournament in which Tonga sealed a silver medal. Likiliki is the first Tongan woman’s footballer to be recognised for her abilities on the regional stage.

Vanuatu Football Federation (VFF) National Clubs Champions Port Vila Sharks won through to the 2009 O-League where they were drawn alongside the two New Zealand representative clubs. Tafea FC – champions of the Port Vila Football Association (PVFA) Premier League for the past fifteen years missed out on O-League participation for the first time in its history as a result, although many of the club’s players would star for the Sharks. Feddy Vava and Francois Sakama were selected for the Oceania All Stars match with LA Galaxy. Vanuatu finished fourth in the 2008 OFC Nations Cup and ended their efforts with a 2-1 win over rivals Fiji.
OFC General Secretary Tai Nicholas continues to lead the OFC General Secretariat and is responsible for implementing and executing the decisions of the OFC Executive Committee. Long serving Deputy General Secretary Frederic Guillemont took up a new appointment based in Scotland as CEO for the Homeless World Cup after seven years with OFC.

OFC Competitions led by Seamus Marten and David Firisua were responsible for all OFC competition activity and in 2008 delivered a full programme that included the 2008 OFC Nations Cup, the OFC Futsal Championship, the OFC U-20 Championship, the 2008 O-League and the kick-off of the 2009 O-League season.

The most notable development in 2008 was the confirmation that the FIFA “Win in Oceania with Oceania” (WIO) Development Programme will get underway on January 1, 2009. The three year programme is worth $8 million USD. The FIFA WIO Senior Project Manager Vairani Davio will oversee six areas of development with six Project Managers in Futsal, National League, Quality Management System and Information Technology (IT), Communication, Medical and International Relations. FIFA WIO will exist alongside the activities of the General Secretariat.

Looking forward to 2009, several new departments will be created within OFC, notably a Logistic Department to handle the increase in activity.

In 2008 OFC and the football world mourned the loss of Charles J. Dempsey, or Charlie as he was commonly known, after his passing on June 25 at the age of 87.

Dempsey, the patriarch of Oceania football, served as the confederation’s president for 36 years until he stepped down in 2000. During his years he oversaw the body’s rise to full confederation status from FIFA and was responsible for raising national association membership of the OFC from four to eleven.

He was also one of New Zealand Football’s longest serving administrators. He was a New Zealand Football Association national councillor for 23 years and chairman from 1982 to 1987.

Tributes poured in for Dempsey from all over the world and OFC President Reynald Temarii expressed his sadness upon hearing of the death of the former OFC President.

Temarii praised Dempsey for his tireless work throughout Oceania and his commitment to his vision.

“His perseverance, charm and drive will be missed by all the lives he touches and my deepest sympathies are with his family and friends.”

Dempsey’s exceptional work was recognised when he was awarded the Pacific Gold Star in 2000, nominated as an Oceania Football Confederation Honorary President in 2001, and presented with a FIFA Centennial Order of Merit in 2004 for his long and outstanding contribution to football in the region.

OFC General Secretary Tai Nicholas expressed his condolences to Dempsey’s family and mourned the loss of both a mentor and a friend.

“Charles was an inspiration to all of us. His loss will be very heavily felt throughout Oceania and the world where he did so much for the game. My thoughts are with his family.”

More than 600 friends and family turned out for the funeral at St Columba Church and speakers from all facets of Dempsey’s life paid tribute.

In a touching Eulogy Peter Clapshaw said, “Charlie was possibly the most outstanding administrator sport in New Zealand has ever known, and I would not be surprised if he is already on his way to organising heaven.”

In a further tribute, 1982 World Cup coach John Ashhead simply said: “He fought for us all — here and abroad. He fought for me and gave me the greatest opportunity any coach can have — the chance to take a team into the World Cup.”

And many of those players who went with Dempsey and Ashhead to Spain in 1982 attended the funeral to pay their respects to a man who had given them all that chance.
International Relations

Football is of social, cultural, educational, economic and political relevance, and OFC actively promoted this concept throughout the region in 2008. A number of notable landmarks in targeted assistance to OFC’s Member Associations were achieved in partnership with social institutions, Government and Non-Government Organizations (NGO’s) that ensured 2008 will be remembered as a momentous year in OFC’s history.

An agreement between OFC and the Council of South Pacific Scout Associations (CSPSA) was established that will see football promoted through the CSPSA in each country within the Oceania region. OFC also secured funding from the German Embassy in New Zealand to promote the “Just Play” grassroots football activities in Tonga. OFC committed a further $100,000 NZD toward a three year programme designed to combine football activities with existing education programmes in schools in Tuvalu.

The French Government’s Pacific Funds Committee and OFC have been the driving force for cultural development and interaction in youth football throughout Oceania for the past three years. This relationship grew closer with the 2008 OFC Youth Festival in Noumea, New Caledonia – a prime example of football’s power to ensure a bright future for Oceania’s youth.

The Pacific Funds Committee supports social and economic programmes around the Oceania region and alongside OFC has used football as a platform for cultural exchange, mutual respect among diverse ethnic groups and the promotion of French culture. A total of 90,000 Euros was contributed to the OFC Youth Festival in 2008.

The OFC Men’s Olympic Football Tournament in Lautoka, Fiji, held a STOP HIV/AIDS Awareness Day with the aim of raising awareness and the prevention of HIV/AIDS throughout Oceania. Match Day Five of the championship saw all the teams and team captains read a prepared statement to educate fans the importance of life skills and healthy behaviour.

STOP HIV/AIDS DAY was developed by OFC, the Oceania National Olympic Committee (GNOC) and the United Nations (UN) AIDS Programme. The media impact of the STOP HIV/AIDS Awareness Day reached millions of listeners throughout the Pacific and South East Asia through ABC Radio Australia and was transmitted to local broadcasters in Cook Islands, Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu through the Fiji TV Sky Pacific television platform.

Elsewhere, International Women’s Day was marked in Port Moresby during the OFC Women’s Olympic Football Tournament Play-Off between host nation Papua New Guinea and New Zealand. The match was attended by Dame Carol Kidu and, thanks to the OFC, was also the first live women’s football match ever broadcast in Papua New Guinea.

OFC partnered with the PNGFA and local broadcaster EMTV and used the coverage to deliver key messages such as anti-domestic violence and HIV/AIDS awareness. The broadcast reached an audience of nearly 2.7 million in Papua New Guinea and was later broadcast in Solomon Islands and Fiji delayed.

PNGFA’s grassroots development programme benefited from OFC’s close work with the European Union with 200,000 Euros secured. The financial boost was a first for Papua New Guinea and a unique milestone as OFC sets a target of promoting football and benefiting society as a whole.

The OFC Youth Festival drew 7900 participants from 107 clubs and 693 schools with 20 teams qualifying for Noumea from the original field of just over 800 and demonstrated the popularity of football amongst youth in Oceania. The event was made possible by the support from the French Government through its Pacific Funds programme.

Following on from their generous financial support in 2006 and 2007, Agence Française de Développement (AFD) approved a contribution of 90,000 Euros for the 2008 edition. The opening ceremony took place at the wonderful Tjibaou Centre on the outskirts of Noumea. The Tjibaou Centre is a spectacular building that symbolizes the recognition of the Kanak people and is named after Kanak philosopher and politician Jean Marie Tjibaou.

The third edition of the popular OFC Youth Festival took place at Stade Pentecost, Noumea, with 20 entries from nine countries taking part in the festivities. For the first time each squad included a female player as the spirit of education and understanding crossed the cultural and gender divide. The Christian Karembeu Jubilee Match provided an exciting backdrop as participants engaged in cultural, educational and football activities that will remain with them for a lifetime.

A host of football stars were on hand to meet the OFC Youth Festival participants including Bernard Lama and Antoine Kambouare with members of the France ‘98 squad including Christian Karembeu, Franck Leboeuf, Robert Pires, Lionel Charbonnier and Bixente Lizarazu, in attendance to meet and greet the children.

The cultural element of the festival saw teams visit the Centre de Loisirs to spend time with educators and students from around New Caledonia. The children formed close friendships and fostered an understanding of respective cultures – a unique opportunity created through football and education.

A multi-cultural selection of players from Kiribati, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Tahiti, Tuvalu and Vanuatu were selected from the gathered throng to play Karembeu, Pires and Leboeuf in a quick game before the children and players mingled freely. Squads from around the region were adopted by local schools that later turned out in force to lend their support when the action got underway.

The football tournament kicked off at Stade Pentecost on 29 May with 40 games played on Match Day 1. Fiji’s Ba Flying Arrows turned in a series of eye-catching performances while other credible showings included Tuvalu representatives Nauti Primary School, Tarawa club from Kiribati and the Vanuatu trio represented by Abuainga, Erakor and Imaki.

New Zealand’s Waikato Bay of Plenty, Capital Football and Auckland Football were also strong performers with Papua New Guinea’s team from Wabag winning plaudits as the Most Improved team. Fiji won the OFC Youth Festival for the first time after a 2-0 win over Auckland in the final. Fiji went on to represent Oceania at the Danone Nations Cup in Paris, France, and achieved a praise-worthy 24th place finish out of a field of forty teams from around the world.
Karembeu Jubilee Noumea 2008

OFC’s favourite football son Christian Karembeu was honoured for his contribution to football in the Oceania region with a jubilee match at Stade Numa Daly, Noumea, New Caledonia on Saturday 31 May, 2008.

The match was timed to coincide with the FIFA Goal Project inauguration in Paris as well as the OFC Youth Festival and it provided a wonderful opportunity for fans to pay tribute to the Lifou-born Karembeu. A crowd of 10,000 packed into the Stade Numa Daly to pay homage to Karembeu, who enjoyed a glittering 18-year career that included 1996 FIFA World Cup and UEFA EURO 2000 successes with France, and two UEFA Champions League titles with Real Madrid.

The game between a Les Bleus side—which included a number of France ‘98 winners—and a Pacific selection named Team Karembeu finished 8-2 in favour of the Europeans, with Robert Pires scoring five times, Zinedine Zidane twice, and Youri Djorkaeff also finding the target. The biggest round of applause, though, was reserved for Karembeu. After helping the French team establish a 6-0 lead, he was substituted to a thunderous eruption of sound and colour as the Stade Numa Daly crowd rose to acclaim the charismatic former midfielder.

An emotional Karembeu said getting together with his former team-mates was a special honour for him, particularly in New Caledonia. “We get together to play every now and then—it really is all about seeing each other and enjoying our company again. I am touched that everyone could come to New Caledonia to share this moment,” he said.

Karembeu reappeared shortly after for Team Karembeu, alongside players from New Caledonia and Oceania, to acknowledge his pacific roots. An emotional Karembeu said getting together with his former team-mates was a special honour for him, particularly in New Caledonia. “We get together to play every now and then—it really is all about seeing each other and enjoying our company again. I am touched that everyone could come to New Caledonia to share this moment,” he said.

Karembeu’s focus was not just sentimental. He also took time to shine the spotlight on his Oceanian heritage. Keryn Jordan, the former South African international striker based in New Caledonia to share this moment,” he said.

Karembeu has done for football in Oceania. “Football is the players on to the field and show his appreciation for all members—OFC’s member on the FIFA Committee for Fair Play and Social Responsibility—and the support of EMTV.

Football For Life, which was launched in 2007 to help tsunami victims in the Solomon Islands, aims to finance and support humanitarian aid throughout Oceania’s Pacific communities.

During the OFC Olympic Football Tournaments for men and women in 2008, OFC partnered with UNAIDS to organise and promote ‘STOP HIV Day.’ The men’s tournament held in Fiji on 8 March featured interactive promotional displays and dedicated messages inserted into the pre-match ceremony. All captains of the six participating nations delivered an HIV/AIDS awareness message before their respective matches.

UNAIDS representative Joanna Ferris was delighted by the response of all teams. “The captains were fantastic in their support of this cause. The aim of the project is to utilize the power of sport—in this case football—to deliver education on HIV. Football has helped break down barriers, promote self-esteem and it can teach life skills and healthy behaviour.”

The campaign was also coordinated in Port Moresby, with the help of Andrew Lepani, as the national women’s teams of Papua New Guinea and New Zealand lined up for the OFC Women’s Olympic Football Tournament. Coinciding with International Women’s Day, the campaign was boosted by Dame Carol Kidu—Minister of Community Development and Sports within the region.

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OFC Television Pilot Project

The OFC Television Pilot Project conducted in Honiara, Solomon Islands, marked a new era for OFC in the relationship between media and football.

OFC broke new ground when it purchased $60,000 USD worth of hardware and equipment for Solomon Islands broadcaster One Television as part of a two-week media training programme built around the 2008 Wantok Cup football tournament from July 1-14.

Canal France International (CFI) sent consultant Fabien Duflos to assist with the project while Australian-based consultant Alan Gilvear conducted an Outside Broadcast seminar utilising the Wantok Cup as a “live” classroom environment. Overseen by OFC Media and Communications, the Television Pilot Project offered the local television broadcaster and Member Association (MA) the perfect opportunity to harmonise their relationship.

One Television lifted its broadcast exposure of Solomon Islands Football Federation (SIFF) activity on its flagship sports show — “The Football Show”. Interviews, news updates and coverage of domestic football activities were grown and nurtured by trainers who gave technical guidance in production, camerawork, research, editing, graphics and technical assistance.

The contribution of key human resource was identified with a dedicated football reporter appointed as part of the project. The reporter became responsible for sourcing story leads, liaising with SIFF and OFC, as well as producing commentary for the Outside Broadcast unit, all under the guidance of One Television’s Executive Producer and OFC.

The ability of One Television to supply its own Outside Broadcast production and emulate benchmarks set in sophisticated broadcast environments in Europe was one of the projects key achievements. The success of the project contributed directly to the green light for similar media development programmes throughout the region as part of the FIFA initiative ‘Win in Oceania’.

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Communications, Media and Marketing

Television coverage of OFC activity reached a peak in 2008 with more OFC football matches broadcast throughout the region than ever before. The huge popularity of football in the Oceania region was amply illustrated by the frequency with which live or delayed broadcasts of exhibition matches and OFC tournaments took place thanks to partnerships created with regional and local broadcasters.

The performance of Oceaniafootball.com as a tool for live text updates of key matches supplemented coverage of football in the region where radio and television were inaccessible and was a popular vehicle for fans from Solomon Islands and Vanuatu as well as those scattered around the globe.

OFC Media and Communications provided coverage of 136 matches and averaged 18,000 unique hits on the Oceaniafootball.com website during the OFC Men’s Olympic Football Tournament in Lautoka, Fiji. The bulk of the editorial content for OFC’s website coverage consists of tournament reports. A lack of human resource has made it difficult to deliver as much news from the FIFA Goal Office or OFC Technical Department activities but plans are already underway to address these areas of concern and a new website editorial direction is set to get underway in 2009.

Radio coverage of regional football activities was restricted to domestic competitions but continues to be a popular medium that overcomes many of the technical obstacles faced by television and internet media. The 2008 O-League, OFC Men’s Olympic Football Tournament and the Christian Karembeu Jubilee Match all received extensive radio coverage throughout the Melanesian countries with Australia’s ABC network tracking football activity in the region closely.

The renewal of the OFC Player of the Year Award was marked by the retrospective nomination of three players for the prestigious honour covering 2005-2007. Marama Vahirua, Ryan Nelsen and Shane Smeltz were named OFC Player of the Year for 2005, 2006 and 2007 respectively after the award had been in hiatus for three years.

A women’s OFC Player of the Year Award was introduced for the first time with fifteen players from around the region nominated in 2008. The winner will be announced in mid-2009. The men’s OFC Player of the Year Award featured ten nominees the bulk of which ply their trade in Europe.

Another highlight for OFC Communications, Media and Marketing was the Oceania All Stars match against Major League Soccer (MLS) franchise LA Galaxy at Mount Smart Stadium on December 6, 2008. The match was broadcast live around the region to 14 countries with a projected television audience of 6.5 million viewers.
Adopting the home and away concept of the O-League competition, the 2008 OFC Nations Cup took a big step forward resulting in football fans seeing more of their national heroes over an extended period.

During the OFC Nations Cup, New Caledonia surged ahead in the FIFA/Coca-Cola Rankings September 2008 to reach 95th position. Their run of form came to an end with a 1-3 home defeat against New Zealand’s All Whites who secured their place at the FIFA Confederations Cup. However, Fiji caused something of an upset defeating the All Whites 2-0 in their rescheduled fixture in November.

Also proving popular was the 2008 O-League which saw unprecedented crowd figures throughout the season. Kossa FC captured the imagination of the football family with their team upset Waitakere 3-1 with two goals from James Naka and a third from Joe Luwi. Despite Kossa’s impressive home win, defending champions Waitakere United dug out a 1-1 draw with Auckland City to finish with eight points on the table – one more than their Auckland rivals. Meanwhile in Group B, Solomon Island champions Kossa FC reached their first ever O-League final after beating Ba 4-2.

For the first leg of the final, a sell-out crowd of 25,000 packed into Lawson Tama Stadium in Honiara to support Kossa FC. The local faithful were given something to cheer about as their team upset Waitakere 3-1 with two goals from James Naka and a third from Joe Luwi. But the Auckland-based side turned things around in dramatic fashion for the return leg putting five unanswered goals past Kossa at Trusts Stadium in Henderson. The result meant Waitakere won 6-3 on aggregate and would once again represent Oceania at the FIFA Club World Cup in Japan.

Despite this increase in interest for the OFC Nations Cup and the O-League, OFC was forced to nominate representatives without qualifying tournaments in the Beach Soccer and women’s U-20 categories. Meanwhile New Zealand earned a sensational 3-1 win in the first leg of the 2008 O-League and other OFC competitions were also well attended.

In other competitions, New Zealand consolidated its position as top dog in Oceania with the Oly-Whites winning the OFC Men’s Olympic Football Tournament — a six-team round robin tournament featuring New Zealand, Fiji, Cook Islands, Vanuatu, Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands — and the Football Ferns taking out the OFC Women’s Olympic Football Tournament over Papua New Guinea, the winners of the XIII South Pacific Games Samoa 2007, in their one-off encounter at Port Moresby’s Rugby League Stadium.

Tahiti however have emerged as potential challengers to New Zealand after their U-20 side made history winning the OFC U-17 Women’s World Cup in Japan. Joe Luwi, James Naka and Allan Pearce shared the golden boot award for the 2008 O-League while Neil Emblen deserves a mention as arguably the most consistent performer throughout the competition.

The impressive attendance figures for the 2008 OFC O-League show that the event is continuing to grow in popularity. A record breaking cumulative figure of 80,000 spectators enjoyed the 2008 competition with thousands more tuning in for the finals which were broadcast live across television, radio and the internet.

On the pitch it was an intriguing battle as both groups went down to the final game to determine the finalists. In the last match of Group A, defending O-League champions Waitakere United dug out a 1-1 draw with Auckland City to finish with eight points on the table – one more than their Auckland rivals. Meanwhile in Group B, Solomon Island champions Kossa FC reached their first ever O-League final after beating Ba 4-2.

FIFA Club World Cup Japan 2008

It was never going to be easy for Waitakere United’s semi-professional Adelaide United but Chris Militch’s side went close to causing an upset in the opening match of the tournament.

Building on their experience at the FIFA Club World Cup in 2007, Waitakere were just seven minutes away from extra time against the Australian champions but in the end had to settle for a 2-1 loss. Waitakere midfielder Paul Seaman opened the scoring in the 34th minute but the lead lasted just 5 minutes. Adelaide’s Daniel Mullen powered a header home to level the scores before captain Travis Dodd became the hero seven minutes from full time scoring the winner.

Waitakere’s competitive showing proves that the gap between OFC’s best and the world’s best is closing. The confederation’s continued involvement in the FIFA Club World Cup brings important technical and financial benefits to the region which will prove invaluable in the future.
OFC Men’s Olympic Football Tournament Fiji 2008

The Olympic qualifying tournament is always exciting and it was no different in 2008 when the best of OFC’s U-23 players showcased their wide range of skills and style. With the prospect of representing OFC at the Beijing Olympics on the line the tournament was intense, but played in the right spirit of fair play.

The quality of the matches was reflected in crowd size and almost 10,000 people watched the first match of the tournament between New Zealand and Fiji. The Oly-Whites needed a 90th minute winner to get past Fiji in their opener and from that point they carried on their winning ways to snatch five from five and finish top. The Solomon Islands and Fiji followed behind in second and third respectively.

The golden boot award went to Solomon Islands striker Benjamin Totori who scored 10 goals with Fiji’s Malakai Tiwa close behind on seven.

New Zealand was in for a tough battle in their opening match at the Olympics facing a fired up Chinese side who were eager to impress in front of 60,000 home fans.

But the Oly-whites rose to the occasion and battled for a credible 1-1 draw despite being at a numerical disadvantage for much of the game. Defender Steven Old was sent off in the 39th minute after his second yellow card but the Kiwis still managed to score first through a thunderous strike from Jeremy Brockie in the 53rd minute. China, however, fought back to claim a point, delighting a crowd that had noisily backed them throughout.

The Oly-White’s next match was against Brazil and the gulf in experience between the teams was clear as the Brazilians put in a courageous effort but couldn’t overcome Belgium’s marching orders just moments after halftime. New Zealand themselves down a player after Daniel Ellensohn was given his second yellow card in the 70th minute. New Zealand held on for a 2-2 draw. Kirsty Yallop and Amber Hearn put the Kiwis ahead by two but their inexperience showed as they let in two late goals.

That loss meant New Zealand had to beat Belgium in their final group match to have any chance of making the quarterfinals. In the second time in a week the Kiwis found themselves down a player after Dareel Illensohn was given his marching orders just moments after halftime. New Zealand put in a courageous effort but couldn’t overcome Belgium’s one goal advantage. The team finished with only the one point but played in the right spirit of fair play.

Nevertheless, OFC’s top representative at the Beijing Olympics will no doubt stick with them well into the future.

Women’s Olympic Football Tournament Beijing 2008

The Football Ferns had the privilege of playing in the very first sporting contest of the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games and they were unlucky not to start their campaign with a win.

New Zealand were just four minutes away from an upset victory over world number ten Japan but were forced to settle for a 2-2 draw. Kirsty Yallop and Amber Hearn put the Kiwis ahead by two but their inexperience showed as they let in two late goals.

The Ferns’ next match was against former Olympic champions Norway and an 8th minute goal by Norwegian striker Melissa Wili was all that separated the two sides.

Unfortunately their Olympic dream ended in their final group match as they were overpowered 4-0 by eventual gold medalists USA. It was a reminder for New Zealand that while competitive, and at times dominant performances against top-ten sides Japan and Norway signal a bright future, there’s no substitute in the short-term for experience given the USA fielded nine players with twice the number of caps of the Ferns’ most experienced player. Football Ferns captain Hayley Moorwood earned her 38th cap but her opposite was playing her 200th game and the difference in experience was telling.

Nevertheless, OFC’s top women’s team could hold their heads high with a respectable 10th place finish on the Olympic debut.
OFC Futsal Championship
Fiji 2008

It all came down to the final day of the Vodafone OFC Futsal Championship in Fiji to determine who would grab a spot at the FIFA Futsal World Cup in Brazil. With the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu locked on twelve points with one game to go, both teams had everything to play for.

It ended in heartbreak for Vanuatu after the team stumbled at the final hurdle going down 1-2 to a combative Tahiti team. Meanwhile the Solomon Islands finished in emphatic fashion beating Tuvalu 12-0 to fulfill their world cup dream.

In other action, Fiji beat New Zealand 4-1 in the final match of the tournament to finish level on points with the Kiwis but behind on goal difference. Tahiti snuck into second place with their win over Vanuatu while New Caledonia finished 6th above the winless Tuvalu side.

With an impressive 14 goals, Fiji’s Kamal Hassal took out the golden boot award ahead of Micah Leaalafa of the Solomon Islands who tallied 12.

FIFA Futsal World Cup Brazil 2008

The Solomon Island Futsal team entered the FIFA Futsal World Cup 2008 full of hope, and with a dream encounter against defending World Champions and hosts Brazil. But first it was Cuba they had to get past and the Solomons got off to the best possible start with Elliot Ragomo opening the scoring in the first minute. Unfortunately for the Oceania men, their early joy did not last and they were overpowered 10-2.

In their next match, the Solomon Island Kurukurus succumbed to the world giants of Futsal – Brazil. A crowd of more than 5,000 saw the hosts score 21 times without reply against Solomon Islands to consolidate their position at the top of Group A.

Disappointing losses to Japan and Russia followed but Solomon Island coach Victor Wai’a summed up his sides tournament with emphasis on the valuable experience gained by playing against the world’s best. The Solomon Islands had the youngest average age of all the teams at the FIFA Futsal World Cup 2008 and the players now know where they need to be to compete on the world stage.

In Marseille the team looked to star striker James Naka for inspiration to help them get through a tough group which included Italy, Portugal and El Salvador. Italy exhausted a courageous effort from the Solomon Islands to win 7-4 in what proved a fitting opener to Marseille 2008. In the team’s next match Naka scored a second half hat trick but it was not enough to come back from a five goal deficit against a classy Portugal side.

The final score was 13-4, with Portugal eventually making it through to the semifinals before going down to gold medalists Brazil.

Solomon Islands bowed out of Marseille 2008 in style by beating El Salvador 6-3 in the battle for third place in Group B. Naka led the victory, scoring four goals to take his tournament tally to eight. For the third year running, the Bilikiki Boys were drawn in a group where both qualifiers advanced to the final four.
FIFA U-17 Women’s World Cup New Zealand 2008

The inaugural FIFA U-17 Women’s World Cup in New Zealand will be remembered for many things: big crowds, spectacular goals and a level of play that far exceeded expectations.

Crowd numbers were just one of the indicators that showed how the competition exceeded even the most optimistic expectations. Chris Simpson, the Local Organising Committee’s CEO, revealed that FIFA had challenged the Kiwis to surpass Russia’s total turnout of 52,000 for the FIFA U-20 Women’s World Cup of 2006, while the LOC privately set themselves the goal of breaking through the 100,000 barrier. Ultimately, both targets were made to look modest in the extreme by a final figure of 212,504.

All this speaks volumes for the Local Organising Committee’s efforts and the readiness of the Kiwi public to embrace the event, of course, but it is also a reflection on the fare served up by a talented new generation of female stars. New Zealand’s own U-17 team – the Young Football Ferns – performed admirably and won thousands of fans with their gutsy efforts. They were edged out 0-1 by Canada in their opening match and then suffered another close loss to Denmark 1-2 before stunning South American champions Colombia 3-1 in their third and final group match. The win, thanks to a Rosie White hat-trick, was the first for a New Zealand team at a FIFA Women’s World Cup event.

Asia’s representatives proved the competition’s most notable success story with Korea DPR managing to go all the way and win the inaugural tournament. Their 2-1 extra-time victory over USA in the final was watched by 16,162 fans at North Harbour Stadium – a New Zealand record for any women’s sporting event in history. It was a fitting end to what was a hugely successful tournament.

The experience gained by organisers and players alike was hugely beneficial to the Oceania Region as a whole. FIFA showed a great sign of faith entrusting Oceania with this inaugural tournament and organisers proved New Zealand is more than worthy of hosting such an event of this scale. With the expertise gained by full-time staff, part-time staff and volunteers, Oceania is in a good position to host future FIFA events and enjoy similar success.

TOURNAMENT FACTS

- 28 October to 16 November 2008
- 37 matches at Auckland’s North Harbour Stadium, Hamilton’s Waikato Stadium, Wellington Stadium and Christchurch’s QEII Park
- 16 nations competing including New Zealand’s U-17 team – The Young Football Ferns
- 16,162 people at the final between USA and North Korea – the largest attendance for any women’s sporting event in New Zealand
- 212,504 spectators over the three weeks
- $1.5 million New Zealand Government contribution to the $11.8 million tournament
- Former New Zealand Prime Minister Helen Clark as Honorary President
- 1200 volunteers
- 150 territories taking the broadcasting rights
- 720 international participants
- Around 1500 visiting international supporters
- 100 FIFA staff working in New Zealand for the tournament
- Franz Beckenbauer, Reynald Temarii and other dignitaries in attendance
- All matches broadcast live on Sky Sport
FIFA U-20 Women's World Cup Chile 2008

After a credible performance at the FIFA U-20 Women’s World Cup in Russia in 2006, New Zealand’s Junior Football Ferns were ready to go one step further and advance to the quarter finals of the 2008 equivalent in Chile.

The team had been elected by the OFC to represent Oceania without having to go through a qualifying tournament due to the extent of their dominance in the region. Therefore the only preparation the Kiwis had was a quadrangular tournament including Chile, Mexico, Canada and New Zealand held in Chile two months prior to the World Cup.

Going into the OFC tournament New Zealand were clear favourites and it looked like business as usual when the Kiwis brushed aside Fiji 3-0 on the opening day while Tahiti could only muster a 0-0 draw with New Caledonia.

Yet the defining match of the competition was to be the encounter between the hosts and the favourites on the second match day. New Zealand started well enough, with striker Costa Barbarouses putting the Kiwi youngsters in front after 23 minutes. But just before half-time, a glimmer of hope for Tahiti: New Zealand midfielder Adam McGeorge was shown a straight red card. On 66 minutes, Garry Rochette brought the hosts level with a breathtaking goal, a low 30-yard missile that fizzed into the top corner. Tahiti had their tails up, and Arihau Teriitau sparked wild celebrations by bundling home the winner from a corner in the 89th minute.

On a final day of high drama, in which three teams started the round of matches with a shout of winning, tournament honours see-sawed back and forth between Tahiti and New Caledonia in matches which were played concurrently. But Tahiti finally edged it thanks to a 2-0 win over a Fiji team that finished with nine payers. Meanwhile New Zealand fought back to level 2-2 against New Caledonia, which eventually allowed Tahiti the relative luxury of a two-point margin at the top of the table in the battle of the French-speaking nations.

Had New Caledonia managed one more goal, they would have been the ones to participate in Egypt 2009, but it was not to be, and the day belonged to the determined Tahiti side and their Coach Lionel Charbonnier.

John Herdman’s side took a 27th minute lead against England through Sarah McLaughlin’s 22 yard drive and even after the 70th minute dismissal of Ferns’ captain Katie Hoyle for a second caution, a heroic rearguard action looked set to secure victory and a place in the last eight – a first for a New Zealand team at a FIFA World Cup finals. But into the fourth minute of injury time, Toni Duggan found just enough space to fire a curling shot in off the upright to send the English through and the Kiwis home in the cruelest of fashion.

Despite the heartbreak, the performance shows that OFC teams can foot it with the world’s best. It was the best result from any New Zealand side at a FIFA tournament and with nine of the Junior Football Ferns starting 11 eligible for the next FIFA U-20 Women’s World Cup in Germany, the future looks even brighter.
2008 OFC Nations Cup / 2010 FIFA World Cup South Africa™

New Zealand got off to a solid start by defeating Fiji 2-0 and continued to present their credentials as the best team in Oceania with controlled performances throughout the early rounds. Their 3-1 win against New Caledonia in Noumea on 6 September made it four from four and handed them the title with two games to spare. It was their fourth OFC Nations Cup in the 35-year history of the competition.

The All Whites only slip-up came in their last match against Fiji when a double strike from Roy Krishna resulted in a reverse score line to that in their opening clash. While the result was insignificant in qualification terms, the significance of the victory was not lost on Fiji who celebrated their first victory over New Zealand in 24 years. The win saw Fiji move to seven points leaving them third on the table behind New Caledonia and Vanuatu.

Winning the OFC competition was the first step for the All Whites but the team will now have to beat the fifth placed Asian qualifier in a home and away playoff at the end of 2009. Herbert will be calling on striker Shane Smeltz who was instrumental for the Kiwis during 2008. Smeltz equalled a 30-year-old New Zealand record by matching Keith Nelson's tally of scoring in six consecutive international fixtures. Other stand out performers during the OFC Nations Cup included Fiji's Roy Krishna and New Caledonia goalkeeper Jean Marc Ounemoa.

The 2008 OFC Nations Cup was also the last edition to be played in Oceania with the tournament moving to the FIFA World Cup qualification format for 2010 FIFA World Cup South Africa™.
One of the department’s biggest successes was the newly established OFC Accreditation Scheme. Spearheaded by Jim Selby, the scheme set the benchmark in Oceania for coach and referee education. Through its staff and locally trained Member Association (MA) Instructors, the OFC Technical Department accredited more people in 2008 than in any other sport. Not surprisingly, many other sporting organisations have shown a strong interest in learning more about OFC’s system.

In 2008 OFC introduced a policy that all Instructors delivering OFC Coaching Courses in MAs must be trained and accredited with the OFC Technical Department and undertake evaluation by the OFC Technical Director before they are able to conduct local courses.

FIFA and OFC have combined to deliver “Train the Trainer” Courses to MA Instructors that has provided capacity building opportunities for local coaches who have been identified to conduct community courses. For the first time in Oceania, MA Instructors delivered community courses in 2008 to local coaches and established themselves as competent presenters.

One of the key tenets in 2008 was that the OFC aimed to connect to and leverage its grassroots participation in MAs and establish a sustainable football development platform through improving the skills of local football people. The technical department worked hard to this aim and ensured MA Instructors had the resources to assist coaches and players at the community level.

OFC Head of Women’s Football Connie Selby facilitated several courses at the beginning of 2008 before taking up a position as UAE National Women’s Coach/Head of Women’s Football Development in Dubai. She returned to the region in October/November working for the FIFA Technical Study Group during the inaugural FIFA U-17 Women’s World Cup.

Jim Selby continued his good work with the OFC Technical Study Group (TSG) in 2008 observing technical trends across the Oceania region. The team was active on the ground at OFC tournaments such as the Olympic Qualifying Tournaments in March and the OFC U-20 Championship in December. Matches were filmed and analysed to identify strengths and weaknesses in areas such as goalkeeping, tactical approach and physiology.

Technical Development

The OFC Technical Department set high standards in 2008 with Technical Director Jim Selby focusing on developing a technical direction in education and training, community participation and elite development in coaching and referee activities.

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In 2008, OFC was represented by men’s trios at the FIFA Club World Cup and the Men’s Olympic Football Tournament while Fiji’s Amitesh Behari was selected to referee at the FIFA Futsal World Cup. Both men’s trios have been preselected for the 2010 FIFA World Cup South Africa™. OFC was also represented for the first time at a FIFA tournament by a female trio of referees who officiated at the inaugural FIFA U-17 Women’s World Cup. This trio has been preselected for the FIFA Women’s World Cup Germany 2011.

Referee Development

OFC places high importance on developing world-class match officials and in 2008 referee development received a huge boost thanks to a brand new FIFA-funded Refereeing Assistance Programme (RAP).

Under the umbrella of the FIFA Development Office, RAP was introduced in Oceania in March 2008 and is staffed by Referee Development Officer Massimo Raveino, Referee Instructor Neil Poloso and Fitness Trainer Kader Touati.

The programme has two objectives. Firstly it aims to prepare referees for international competitions, particularly the 2010 FIFA World Cup South Africa™. Secondly, it aims to develop referees in each of the Member Associations (MAs) through scouting and education.

In 2008 the RAP team set about establishing a new structure aimed at improving the quality and quantity of referee education. Practically, this resulted in several new courses held in various Oceania countries which were aimed at the wide spectrum of match officials – from elite to community referees, from futbol to beach soccer referees. The courses, which were well attended by men and women, featured the latest teaching resources and up-to-date equipment.

The OFC Technical Department worked closely with the RAP team to ensure that no overlapping occurred. Proof that the initiatives are working can be seen in the increased level of representation for Oceania at international tournaments.
Courses and Education 2008

FIFA MA – OFC YOUTH FOOTBALL COURSE

Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea 3-8 March 2008
Presented by OFC Head of Women’s Football Development.

OFC JUNIOR FOOTBALL COURSE

Nukualofa Tonga 10-13 March 2008
Presented by OFC Head of Women’s Football Development.

FIFA MA – OFC YOUTH FOOTBALL COURSE

Nukualofa Tonga 17-23 March 2008
Presented by OFC Head of Technical Development.

OFC INSTRUCTOR TRAINING COURSE

Lae, Papua New Guinea 8-14 April 2008
Presented by OFC Head of Technical Development.

OFC JUNIOR FOOTBALL COURSE

Lae, Papua New Guinea 12-13 March 2008
Presented by OFC Head of Technical Development.

FIFA REGIONAL INSTRUCTOR COURSE

Ba, Fiji 20-26 May 2008
Presented by OFC Head of Technical Development.

OFC JUNIOR FOOTBALL COURSE

Ba, Fiji 24-25 May 2008
Presented by OFC Head of Technical Development.

FIFA MA – OFC SENIOR FOOTBALL COURSE

Honiara, Solomon Islands 16-22 June 2008
Presented by OFC Head of Technical Development.

OFC JUNIOR FOOTBALL COURSE

Lae, Papua New Guinea 8-14 June 2008
Presented by OFC Head of Technical Development.

OFC JUNIOR FOOTBALL COURSE

Ba, Fiji 5-6 July 2008
Presented by OFC Head of Technical Development.

OFC YOUTH FOOTBALL COURSE

Rarotonga, Cook Islands 21-26 July 2008
Presented by OFC Head of Technical Development.

FIFA TELEVISION PILOT PROJECT

Honiara, Solomon Islands 1-14 July 2008
Coordinated by OFC Director of Media and Communications Mr. Gordon Glen Watson.

OFC ELITE REFEREE & ASSISTANT REFEREE COURSE

Pago Pago, American Samoa 10-24 October 2008
Presented by OFC Assistant Referee Development Officer Massimo Raveino and Referee Instructor Neil Poloso.

FIFA WOMEN’S FOOTBALL AMBASSADOR ‘ROAD-SHOW’ FOR FIFA U-17 ‘LEGACY’ PROGRAMME

Auckland, Christchurch, Dunedin, Hamilton, Napier and Wellington, New Zealand
Presented by FIFA appointments Carolyn Monroe (Aotearoa), Winton Rufer (NZ), Michelle Cox (NZ) and the FIFA Development Office.

OFC JUNIOR FOOTBALL REFRESHER COURSE

Ba, Fiji 11-15 October 2008
Presented by OFC Head of Technical Department.

OFC JUNIOR AND YOUTH FOOTBALL COURSE

Ba, Fiji 16-21 October 2008
Presented by OFC Head of Technical Department.

FIFA REGIONAL BEACH FOOTBALL AND REFEREEING COURSE

Suva, Fiji 26-29 October 2008
Presented by Assistant Development Officer Patrick Jacques, Assistant Development Officer Massimo Raveino and Referee Instructor Neil Poloso.

FIFA/OFC WOMEN’S FOOTBALL COACHING COURSE

Facilitated by appointed FIFA Women’s Football Instructors as part of the FIFA U-17 Women’s World Cup Legacy programme.

FIFA MA FUTSAL COACHING AND REFEREEING COURSES

Pago Pago, American Samoa 7 November 2008
An advanced Futsal coaching and refereeing course held simultaneously with FIFA RAP DO Massimo Raveino and RAF Instructor Neil Poloso for refereeing and Patrick Jacques (ADO) for coaching.

FIFA MA FUTSAL COACHING COURSE

Suva, Fiji Islands 10-14 November 2008
An advanced Futsal coaching course with FIFA instructor Scott Gilgore.

FIFA RAP (REFFERING) COURSE

Rarotonga, Cook Islands 27-31 October 2008
Facilitated by FIFA RAF Instructor Neil Poloso.

FIFA RAP (REFEREEING) COURSE

Port Vila, Vanuatu 10-14 November 2008
Facilitated by FIFA RAP DO Massimo Raveino and RAF Instructor Neil Poloso.

FIFA RAP (REFEREEING) COURSE

Honiara, Solomon Islands 21-28 November 2008
Facilitated by FIFA RAF DO Massimo Raveino and RAF Instructor Neil Poloso.

FIFA FUTURSO IN REGIONAL REFEREEING COURSE

Auckland, New Zealand 29 November – 5 December 2008
Facilitated by FIFA RAF DO Massimo Raveino and RAF Instructor Neil Poloso.

FIFA QUALITY MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS (QMS) ‘PILOT’ PROJECT IN OCEANIA SEMINARS AND WORKSHOPS

Honiara, Solomon Islands 2-7 December 2008
A FIFA delegation led by Leo Pasquini with experts Robin Eggertshofer (Switzerland) and Shawn Stray (Quality and Operations specialist) joined by OFC Development Officer Glenn Turner and Win So Oceania Senior Project Manager Yannam Doce.

Courses and Education

The OFC’s Technical Department and FIFA Development Office worked closely in 2008 to deliver a full programme of courses catering to all stakeholders of the game.

In connection with the inaugural FIFA U-17 Women’s World Cup, the FIFA Development Office held the FIFA Women’s Football Ambassador ‘Road-show’ course across New Zealand in Auckland, Christchurch, Dunedin, Hamilton, Napier and Wellington. The road-show was part of the ‘Legacy’ programme activity to promote women’s football in collaboration with New Zealand Football and its seven affiliated federations. The FIFA appointees for coaching and promotional activities included Carolyn Morace (Italy), Wynton Rufer (NZ), Michele Cox (NZ) and the FIFA Development Office Auckland staff.

OFC’s Education and Training Scheme was a huge success with Jim Selby running a number of well attended courses. These included OFC Junior and Youth Football Courses, FIFA/ OFC Women’s Football Coaching Courses, FIFA MA – OFC Senior Football Courses as well as Beach Soccer and Futsal courses. The goal of the Education and Training Scheme is to inform and stimulate creative thinking within coaches and players at all levels of the game.

An increase in the total number of courses in 2008 was partly due to the introduction of the Refereeing Assistance Programme (RAP). Massimo Raveino, Referee Development Officer, facilitated a number of courses including FIFA RAP, FIFA Regional Beach Football and Refereeing, FIFA MA Futsal Coaching and Refereeing and the OFC Elite Referee and Assistant Referee Course during 2008.

Raveino also facilitated the FIFA Futuro III Regional Refereeing course from 27 November to 3 December in Auckland. It was the first FIFA Futuro course organised in Oceania where an instructor came from outside of the confederation, in this case Shamsul Maidin from Singapore. Maidin’s experience of four FIFA Futuro Courses in the Asian Football Confederation was a welcome addition to the group.

Participants from New Zealand, Cook Islands, Tonga, Fiji, American Samoa, New Caledonia, Tahiti and Papua New Guinea took part in the course which was split into technical classroom style technical courses in the morning and practical field based sessions in the afternoon.

The OFC Media and Communications department coordinated the OFC Television Pilot course in July 2008 in the Solomon Islands that taught the local television staff how to broadcast a football match. Experts from Canal France International (CFI) and Channel 7 helped conduct the course with the assistance of Solomon Islands Football Federation (SIFF). It was a huge success and OFC will use the Solomon Islands as a model to develop similar programmes through the Pacific region.
Women’s Football

The development of women’s football in Oceania continued in 2008 with the inaugural FIFA U-17 Women’s World Cup presenting a unique opportunity to further promote the women’s game.

In recognition of futsal’s potential, OFC President Reynald Temarii assembled an OFC Futsal Committee charged with the responsibility of developing the sport in the region. President Temarii made no secret of his desire to see the confederation succeed on the world stage. Chaired by influential Australian Brian Codrington, the committee was comprised of Eric Michalak (New Caledonia), Rehia Davio (Tahiti), Marco Herominlly (Vanuatu) with technical support from Scott Gilligan, Jim Selby and Patrick Jacquemet. One of the leading recommendations was the introduction of the OFC Futsal Championship being held on a three-year cycle from 2009 - 2011 with world cup qualification contested in 2011 giving the representative a full 12 months to prepare for the FIFA Futsal World Cup 2012.

Earlier in the year, OFC Head of Women’s Football Connie Selby travelled to Papua New Guinea in January to assist with the women’s national team programme. Two months later in the OFC Women’s Olympic Qualifiers, Papua New Guinea lost 0-2 to New Zealand – a much improved result compared to their previous 0-7 defeat to the Kiwis.

Selby also held a Strategic Planning Course in the Cook Islands in February followed by a FIFA MA Women’s coaching course in Papua New Guinea in March. Unfortunately she had to leave OFC to take up a position as UAE National Women’s Coach/Head of Women’s Football Development in Dubai. Selby has made an outstanding contribution to girls and women’s sport within Oceania and will be a big loss to the region.

In 2008 it was decided that an ‘OFC Women’s Player of the Year Award’ would be presented for the first time in OFC’s history. OFC put forward a list of finalists for Member Associations to choose from and votes will be counted in 2009. The award is already proving successful in terms of media coverage with players from Fiji, Tonga, New Caledonia and American Samoa all making the news in their respective countries for being named finalists.

The Vodafone OFC Futsal Championship Fiji 2008 featured seven participating teams and was a hotly contested competition. Solomon Islands eventually came out on top showing good strength and flair to book their place at the FIFA Futsal World Cup Brazil 2008. Solomon Islands also competed in their third consecutive FIFA Beach Soccer World Cup, this time in Marseille. The Bilikiki Boys continued to show improvement and have the potential to be a force on the world stage in years to come.

As part of the FIFA Referees Assistance Programme (RAP), courses aimed at futsal referees and beach soccer referees took place in Fiji and Vanuatu with comprehensive training provided by Referee Development Officer Massimo Raveino and Referee Instructor Neil Poloso. Raveino and Poloso were joined by Assistant Development Officer Patrick Jacquemet who presented to coaches. Similar courses will run through 2009.

The OFC Technical Department and the FIFA Development Office will continue to assess both forms of the sport and implement suitable programmes to ensure further development.

The growth of futsal and beach soccer continued in Oceania in 2008 with a significant increase in the number of courses for players, referees and coaches.

During the FIFA U-17 Women’s World Cup, which was held in New Zealand from 28 October to 16 November, women’s football enjoyed a high profile in Oceania. The number of spectators during the tournament surpassed 200,000 which speaks volumes for the potential of the women’s game in the region. OFC and the FIFA Development Office made the most of this opportunity by running courses for players, coaches and referees to coincide with the tournament.

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On the field New Zealand represented the OFC proudly at both the FIFA U-17 Women’s World Cup and the FIFA U-20 Women’s World Cup. The U-17 team claimed a historic victory over South Americans Colombia while the U-20 women were just minutes away from advancing to the quarter-finals. Meanwhile New Zealand’s senior women’s team – the Football Ferns – won plaudits for their audacious play at the FIFA Women’s Olympic Tournament Beijing 2008.

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On the field New Zealand represented the OFC proudly at both the FIFA U-17 Women’s World Cup and the FIFA U-20 Women’s World Cup. The U-17 team claimed a historic victory over South Americans Colombia while the U-20 women were just minutes away from advancing to the quarter-finals. Meanwhile New Zealand’s senior women’s team – the Football Ferns – won plaudits for their audacious play at the FIFA Women’s Olympic Tournament Beijing 2008.
FIFA Win in Oceania

Convening in Sydney in May 2008, the FIFA Congress approved 50 million dollars to go towards FIFA ‘Win In’ projects with 8 million set aside for Oceania. The “Win in Oceania with Oceania” project will launch in 2009 and is set to have a huge impact on the development of the game in the Pacific.

In 2008, OFC worked on the long term planning for Win in Oceania (WIO) and put the right systems in place to support the exciting new project. Senior Project Manager Vairani Davio will lead the WIO Project Team which includes Deputy Project Manager Billy Vaitoare and six other project managers.

The role of the project managers will be to partner the Member Associations (MAs) and assist them in implementing programmes relevant to their specific needs. Project managers will ensure each MA achieves the results and objectives fixed by the FIFA WIO programme.

The main goal of WIO is to leave a legacy in areas such as administration, medical procedures, infrastructure, national leagues and futsal as well as media, communications and TV capabilities. It also aims to improve the image of the OFC and its MAs in the region and worldwide.

OFC staff gave a series of WIO presentations at the OFC Extraordinary Congress in Noumea in June with FIFA President Joseph S. Blatter and FIFA Secretary General Jerome Valcke in attendance.

President Blatter said the project offered OFC an important opportunity to improve football in the region.

"Win in Oceania will be a great success with the right infrastructure, communication and leadership." "I am proud to be the president of FIFA when I see the exceptional development of this region and it can be done because you have a strong leader in OFC President Reynald Temarii with clear goals and vision," Blatter said.

President Temarii says that the success of the project is paramount.

"Win in Oceania is a significant project and it reaffirms FIFA’s position as one of the most important financial contributors to each country within the Oceania region," President Temarii said.

"Therefore it is imperative that each member association takes ownership and meets the set targets." FIFA will initially provide funding from 2009 to 2011 but if WIO is successful then FIFA’s support may continue through to 2014.
### OFC Representation on FIFA Standing Committees

#### FIFA Standing Committees and Judicial Bodies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Committee</th>
<th>Vice President</th>
<th>Executive Officer</th>
<th>Member</th>
<th>Country</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Executive Committee</strong></td>
<td>Reynald Temarii</td>
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<td><strong>Emergency Committee</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Finance Committee</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Internal Audit Committee</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Organising Committee for the FIFA World Cup</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Organising Committee for the FIFA Confederations Cup</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Organising Committee for the Olympic Football Tournaments</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Organising Committee for the FIFA U-17 World Cup</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Committee for Women’s Football and the FIFA Women’s World Cup™</strong></td>
<td>Michele Cox</td>
<td></td>
<td>New Zealand</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Committee</th>
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<th>Country</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Organising Committee for the FIFA U-20 and U-17 Women’s World Cups</strong></td>
<td>Pua Supappo</td>
<td>American Samoa</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Frank Van Hattum</td>
<td>New Zealand (New Zealand 2007)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Futsal and Beach Soccer Committee</strong></td>
<td>Marco Herman</td>
<td>Vanuatu (Futsal Sub-Committee)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Michel Parle</td>
<td>Tahiti (Beach Soccer Sub-Committee)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Organising Committee for the FIFA Club World Cup</strong></td>
<td>David Chung</td>
<td>Papua New Guinea</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Referees’ Committee</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Navi Bikloo</td>
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<td>Massonne Raynes</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Ninus Tavouges</td>
<td>New Caledonia</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Harry Alston</td>
<td>Vanuatu</td>
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<td><strong>Technical and Development Committee</strong></td>
<td>Reynald Temarii</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Alan Gudger</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Marcel Oue</td>
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<td><strong>Sports Medical Committee</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Dr. Tony Edwards</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Dr. Silina Fusimalohi</td>
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<td>Dr. Jean-Marie Debruyne</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Players’ Status Committee</strong></td>
<td>Tai Nicholas</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Legal Committee</strong></td>
<td>Dr. MS Sahu Khan</td>
<td>Fiji</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Committee for Fair Play and Social Responsibility</strong></td>
<td>Carol Kiku</td>
<td>Papua New Guinea</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Frederic Guillemont</td>
<td>France</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Media Committee</strong></td>
<td>Gordon Glen Watson</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Associations Committee</strong></td>
<td>Claude Fournier</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Football Committee</strong></td>
<td>Christian Karembeu</td>
<td>France/New Caledonia</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Strategic Committee</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Christian Karembeu</td>
<td>France/New Caledonia</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Marketing and Television Advisory Board</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Goal Bureau</strong></td>
<td>Reynald Temarii</td>
<td>Tahiti</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Committee for Club Football</strong></td>
<td>Reynald Temarii</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>FIFA Medical Assessment and Research Centre</strong></td>
<td>Dr. Tony Edwards</td>
<td>New Zealand</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Stadium and Security Committee</strong></td>
<td>Skenee Morton</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Disciplinary Committee</strong></td>
<td>Dr. MS Sahu Khan</td>
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<td>Michael Garding</td>
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<td><strong>Appeal Committee</strong></td>
<td>Charles Ashley</td>
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<td>Allen Parker</td>
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<td><strong>Ethics Committee</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Goal Development Officer</strong></td>
<td>Glenn Turner</td>
<td>New Zealand</td>
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### FIFA Appointments

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tournament</th>
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<tr>
<td>FIFA U-17 Women’s World Cup New Zealand 2008</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Massonne Raynes</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Assistant General Coordinator</strong></td>
<td>Vairani Davio</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Medical Officer</strong></td>
<td>Dr. Tony Edwards</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Media Officer</strong></td>
<td>Glenis Hine</td>
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<th>Tournament</th>
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<tr>
<td>FIFA U-20 Women’s World Cup Chile 2008</td>
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Acknowledgements:

Compiled by: Priscilla Duncan, Gordon Glen Watson and Seamus Marten.
Special thanks to: Harry Atisson, Daisy Bowada, Canal France International (CFI), Franck Chevillard, FIFA, FIFA/Foto-net, FIFA Media, Olivier Huc, Marc Peretic-Wilson, Propeller Design, Rocky Roe, Jamie Scott, Jim Selby, Indra Singh, Glenn Turner, Brian Vitolio, Shane Wenzlick, Dorothy Wickham, Matariki Wilson.