

pean companies working in Japan. The latter part of this session was used to examine the steps needed for setting up a permanent structure to serve the needs of EC-Japan specialists.

Mr Giles Merritt, Director of Forum Europe who chaired the workshop, set the tone for the one-day meeting when he said that the aim was to come up with a concrete action plan, establish a time-table and agree on the shape of a flexible yet permanent structure. He believed that it was important to link Japan specialists and allow universities and other interested parties both to interact and to respond better to the needs of government and business.

Some of the research issues that were pointed to by the 50 high-level participants from both the EC and Japanese academia and business, included investment flows and the prospects for investment in Japan by European companies. The need for more inter-European and interdisciplinary research work was also identified, as was research into the potential and also the profitability of doing business in Japan. Looking at how the US is developing its contacts with Japan was also considered to be an important subject for academic exploration by European researchers.

A questionnaire completed by participants of the workshop confirmed a high level of interest in the idea of devising some form of formal network for EC-Japan specialists to co-ordinate their work.

The workshop discussion yielded a general agreement that the next stage will be the convening of an interim steering committee, which will meet in January. This will devise an action plan for the putting together of an EC-Japan experts network and which could also pave the way for a 2-3 day conference to launch the network in the autumn of 1994. Mr Merritt said he judged that significant Japanese input would be forthcoming, and he also pledged Forum Europe's support in terms of providing interim secretariat services. The EC Commission said that it would be glad to act as a catalyst to the new grouping, providing logistical and other support.

Pacific Islands Political Studies Conference

Rarotonga, Cook Islands, 5.-10. Dezember 1993

Over 100 participants, from as far away as France, Japan and USA, as well as the Cook Islands, Samoa, Fiji, Tahiti, Hawaii, Guam, Kiribati, Papua New Guinea, Palau, Vanuatu, Tonga, New Zealand and Australia, took part in the Pacific Islands Political Studies Conference.

Since the Pacific Islands Political Studies Association (PIPSA) was set up in 1982, conferences have been held every two years in a different country (Australia, Samoa, Hawaii and Guam). The next meeting will be in 1995, probably in Fiji. The main function of PIPSA is to promote understanding and awareness, to discuss options, and to facilitate dissemination of information about political systems and processes in or interacting with, the Pacific Islands region.

Most of the participants are from universities - mainly political scientists, but also anthropologists, historians, economists and others interested in political issues; as well as from regional and international organizations, governments, business, media and other backgrounds.

As PIPSA has little funds of its own, meetings are usually cosponsored - this one by the Institute of Pacific Studies of the University of the South Pacific and the Pacific Islands Development Program of the East West Center.

Some 46 papers were presented in the first three days, as well as the opening address by the Prime Minister of the Cook Islands, some informal talks and a panel discussion on Women and Politics in the South Pacific. The last two days were spent visiting and meeting people in the Cook Islands Parliament, the House of Ariki (high chiefs), the Koutu Nui (lesser chiefs), the Puara (the district council of Takitumu district). A visit to the island of Aitutaki looked into local government on that island. Many overseas visitors found these visits to be very helpful and interesting to understand various processes of politics and government in the host country.

Some of the papers presented are now being revised for publication in two books. The first, tentatively titled *The Pacific Islands and the Rest of the World* is being edited by Stephen Henningham and Ueantabo Neemia-Mackenzie. It is concerned with foreign policies of Pacific Islands states (and of other states in relation to them), foreign aid, strategic issues and other connections with the rest of the world. The second book is tentatively titled *New Politics in the South Pacific* and will focus not so much on central governments and national processes (although these will be included, but they are already better known), as on the current issues that are attracting attention e.g. sovereignty movements, options in forms of associated states, the impact of islanders abroad on politics at home, the politics of ideas, information and culture - including the resurgence and adaptation of traditional political systems and principles, women in Pacific politics, and the politics of non-governmental organizations.

Most of the chapters have been or are being written by Pacific Islands authors. In view of the fact that the overwhelming majority of writings on political affairs in the region is by foreign authors, these books will aim for more of a perspective from within.

Ron Crocombe

Workshop on "The Spratly Islands: A Potential Regional Conflict"

Singapur, 8.-9. Dezember 1993

Der vom Institute of Southeast Asian Studies in Singapur durchgeführte Workshop über die Spratly-Frage reihte sich in eine Sequenz von inoffiziellen Vorbereitungskonferenzen des "ASEAN-Regionalforums" ein, das im Juli 1994 erstmals in Bangkok mit Anbindung an die ASEAN-Außenministerkonferenz und Post-Ministerial-Konferenz stattfinden wird.

Aus diesem Grund kam dem - von der Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung gefördernten - Workshop eine besondere Bedeutung zu, die über die wissenschaftlich fundierte Erörterung hinausging. Vertreter sämtlicher Anrainerstaaten nahmen teil, darunter auch Diplomaten und Regierungsvertreter.

Die Spratly-Inseln liegen im südchinesischen Meer, dessen Anrainer China, Vietnam, Malaysia, Indonesien, Brunei und die Philippinen bilden. Die Inselgruppe besteht aus winzigen Inseln und einer Vielzahl von Riffen, die teilweise nur bei Niedrigwasser sichtbar sind. Das südchinesische Meer ist reich an Fi-