

Talanoa 2010: *Niu locals*

What do we need so that we may **think and live as locals**, rather than as strangers-@-home or as migrants? How do we go about **being locals**? What are the consequences, costs and benefits?

Talanoa 2008 & 2009 unpacked the *stresses of migration and pains of diaspora*, at home and abroad, hence the next gathering aims to shift the lines of thinking from *migration* and *diaspora* toward **becoming locals**. The shifts will be from the identities and mentalities of **fobs** and **overstayers** toward being and functioning as locals and **citizens**. Since this gathering favors people of Oceania, the overall theme -- *Niu locals* -- is a play on words: *niu* is one of the words for *coconut*, and it anticipates *newness* also. Talanoa 2010 is therefore an invitation: to be or not to be *Niu locals*!



Talanoa 2010 targets *Niu people* who struggle to fit into the rhythms, ways and values, of others. How do we go about being *Niu locals* in lands where we are not the indigenous people? What do we learn from the **locals** around us? And for *Niu people* who live in home islands, who wrestle with what it means to belong at home, can you help us become locals?

The shifts of *Niu locals* require that we rethink who we are, how we talk and think, and the ways we celebrate and conduct our personal and communal routines.

We invite proposal of presentations that will address, for and/or against, **how and what it means to be *Niu locals*** in relation to one or more of the following areas:

- Aboriginal people, land & lore
- Art & Music
- Ceremonies
- Citizenship
- Discrimination
- Ecology & environment
- Education
- Feasting
- Kinship
- Language
- Lotu
- Parenting
- Politics
- Race relations
- Remittance
- Success
- Teenaging
- Violence
- Youth
- and so forth

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